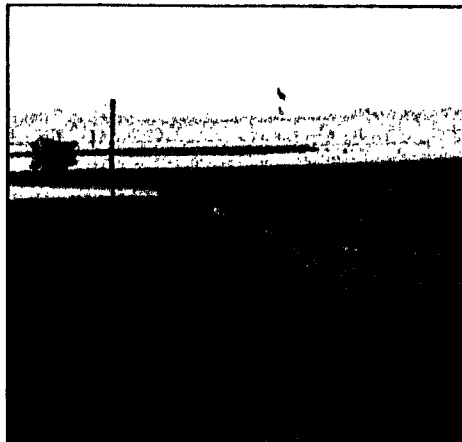




The Isles of the Beholder

Columnist Paul Estronza
La Violette takes a loving
look at the barrier islands.

Community, Page 1B



Our annual report on the progress
of Hancock County and its
communities – and yours.

Special Section, Inside

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The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

VOL. 111, NO. 50

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

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THREE SECTIONS, 58 PAGES

75 CENTS

Sunday
June 30, 2002

Holiday fireworks at Necaise, Clermont

The communities of
Clermont Harbor and
Necaise will celebrate
Independence Day with
celebrations. On
Wednesday, July 3 at
Clermont Harbor, the
Volunteer Fire Dept. and
Civic Association will
sponsor fireworks on the
beach beginning at 9 p.m.

Crane Creek Baptist
Church will sponsor fire-
works at Necaise Ballfield
on July 4. Festivities will
begin at 7 p.m., and will
include an appearance by
World Champion
Bullrider Scott Mendes.

Bay High report cards, student registration

Bay High School stu-
dents' report cards are
now ready for pick-up at
the Bay High office from
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
Monday through
Thursday and 8:30 to
noon on Friday. BHS has
also announced mandato-
ry registration for all stu-
dents for the 2002-03
school year. Dates are
July 29-31.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Editorial Page 4A
Obituaries Page 8A
Sports Page 13A
Classified Pages 9-11B

TIDES

DATE	HIGH	LOW
Mon. 6:30 a.	8:30 a.	2:30 p.
Tue. 6:30 a.	8:30 a.	2:30 p.
Wed. 9:36 a.	1:14 a.	9:32 p.
Thurs. 9:01 a.	8:21 p.	
Fri. 9:07 a.	8:34 p.	
Sat. 9:31 a.	9:03 p.	
Sun. 10:04 a.	9:40 p.	

Edmond Taffey
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Mausoleum
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Arrangements
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Wellman plans expansion

Displaced employees to be first considered for new jobs

BY SHANNON JENKINS
Staff Writer

Wellman Inc. officials recently
announced plans for an expan-
sion at the Pearl River Plant in
Port Bienville Industrial Park.

As the second step of
Wellman's approximate \$68 mil-
lion plans to expand its polyeth-

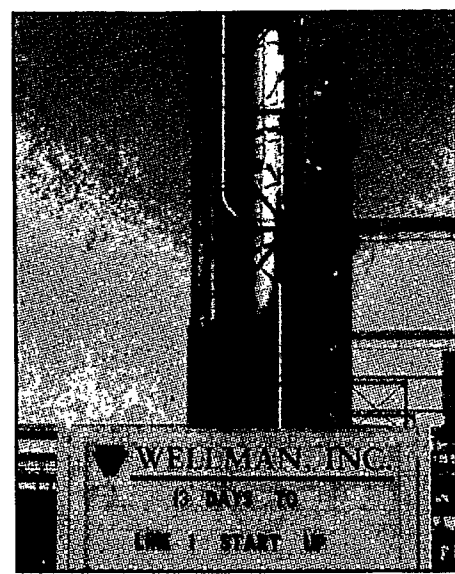
ylene terephthalate (PET) resins
capacity by approximately 415
million pounds over the next 18
months, the Pearl River facility's
existing polyester fiber line will
be modified to produce either
solid stated PET resin or poly-
ester fiber.

The Pearl River project is

"expected to result in approxi-
mately 285 million pounds per
year of additional PET resins
capacity beginning the first
quarter of 2004."

Pete Woody, plant manager
for Wellman's Mississippi facili-

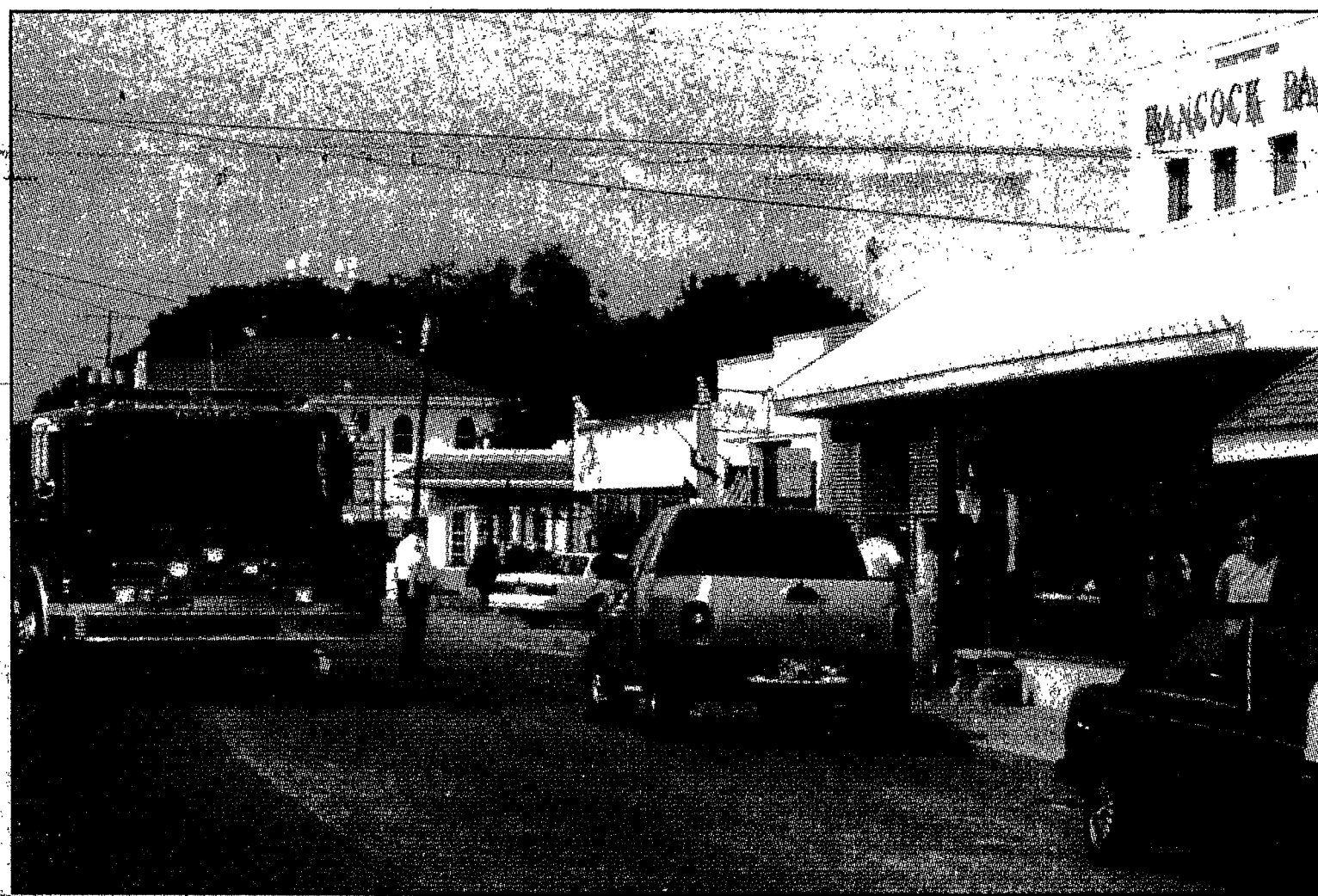
ties, said.



Wellman
Inc. on
Friday
announced
plans for a
\$68 mil-
lion
expansion
at its
Pearl
River
Plant at
Port
Bienville,
creating
20-30 new
jobs.

Echo file photo

Gas leak shuts down Beach Blvd.



Emergency crews from the Bay St. Louis Fire Department and Public Works department close off Beach Blvd. Friday morning after a gas leak was discovered.

BY SHANNON JENKINS
Staff Writer

A section of Beach Boulevard in
Old Town Bay St. Louis was closed
off to traffic Friday morning for
approximately 40 minutes while
city officials inspected what
appeared to be a gas leak.

Buddy Zimmerman, assistant
director for Public Works, said
workers from the Coffee Bean café
called the police department after
smelling gas Thursday night and

Friday morning.

Representatives determined the
gas was coming from New York
New York, which is located next
door to the coffee shop.

Zimmerman said the meter for
the gas was running but no one was
in the restaurant.

"After the gas was turned off, the
smell began to dissipate," he said.
He added that a New York New
York representative arrived an
hour-and-a-half later to unlock the

door.

He said they found a valve on the
stove had been inadvertently left
on.

Zimmerman said there was no
way to know if the valve had been
lit prior to the gas being turned off,
but speculated that it was unlit
prior to the shutoff.

Afterwards, a plumber was called
to conduct mercury tests for leaks
in the gas line. Zimmerman said no
leaks were found.

Sheriff steps up patrol for 4th

Stricter DUI
law goes into
effect Monday

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS
Publisher Emeritus

Increased traffic on the
Gulf Coast's highways for
the holiday this week will
mean more law enforce-
ment officers on patrol.

Motorists need to be
aware of the new Driving
Under the Influence (DUI)
law which goes into effect
on July 1, according to
Hancock County Sheriff
Steve Garber.

The new
law drops
the blood
alcohol con-
tent to .08,
which
Garber said could cause
even casual drinkers who
decide to drive to be issued
a citation for DUI.

In recent weeks, Garber
said, his department has
been receiving many com-
plaints about four-wheelers
on county roads, excessive
speeding, vehicles with
headlights out and out-of-
state tags. He said officers
will be paying special atten-

FOURTH-PAGE 7A

Pass honors victims of Sept. 11 with 'Liberty Garden' ceremony

BY SHANNON JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Pass Christian Chamber of
Commerce and local sponsors
gathered Friday at the chamber
office to dedicate a Liberty Garden
in honor of the victims of Sept. 11.

The Liberty Garden memorial
will serve as "a special place of
natural beauty where people can
honor the memory of those

Americans who perished on Sept.
11 and as a reminder of the two
principles on which this country
was built – liberty and freedom,"
according to chamber Director
Wilma Rizzardi.

As an affiliate of Keep America
Beautiful, the Harrison County
Beautification Commission was

LIBERTY-PAGE 7A



Pass
Christian
Police
Chief John
Dubulsson
and Fire
Chief Rich
Marvill
unveil the
Liberty
Garden
memorial
during a
ceremony
on Friday.

Echo staff photo
by Shannon
Jenkins

For News, Advertising or to Subscribe to The Sea Coast Echo, Call (228) 467-5474 FAX: 467-0333

Time's running out to protest higher tax bills

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

If you want to disagree with the county's reassessment of your property's value you had better do it quickly.

While the County Board of Supervisors try to decide if the cost of postage is too high to warrant notifying taxpayers of a raise in their property values, and consequently, their taxes, people who want to know can go to the tax office and access the information themselves.

But hurry. Taxpayers have the month of July to decide whether new values assessed by the county are fair. Any appeals have to be formally filed by August 5.

Retired county attorney Gerald Gex appeared before the board on Monday to ask that they give their approval for a letter notifying residents of increased property value due to recent reassessments in Bay St.

Louis and other areas.

County Tax Assessor-Collector Jimmie Ladner said he would be glad to prepare letters for every house in the county showing what last year's tax was and what the new tax would be, but said it was not required by law that the office send the letters. He also said the county is under no legal obligation to send a yearly tax bill, but does so because "it is good business practice."

He estimated that there are approximately 50,000 parcels of property in the county and at 17 cents per letter the mailing would cost around \$8,000. Ladner recommended this as the best way to reach all residents.

Board Attorney Ronnie Artigues suggested running four full page ads in the Sea Coast Echo but Supervisor Rocky Pullman said that many people do not read a newspaper or many people

may read another newspaper, such as those who live near Picayune. To be fair, Gex said, ads would have to be run in all area newspapers.

Ladner agreed and repeated his offer to generate letters from the county tax rolls, but asked the board to approve money for postage.

Gex said he thought that sending a card was the best idea so people would not be blindsided by and increase tax bill. Supervisor Lisa Coward said she did not think the county should spend close to \$10,000 sending the notices.

Tax payers have the month of July to go to the county tax office on Main and Second St. in Bay St. Louis to view their tax records and decide if fair value has been placed on their property.

In other business:

Board Attorney Ronnie Artigues gave his opinion on

an issue of use surrounding property owned by Joey Boudin. Neighbors have been complaining about several businesses that Boudin has been operating from his property.

Artigues said that Boudin's property was clearly two parcels, purchased at separate times. Any business activities taking place on the second piece of property would not be eligible for a grandfather clause, which allows existing businesses or uses to remain, when zoning changes take place.

Any activities on the second piece of property now zoned R2 would be in violation of zoning laws, Artigues said. Boudin has been renting the property as storage for trucks that carry seafood.

This is a zoning violation, Artigues said. Boudin would not be able to move the business to the other property because the grandfather

clause only applies to used of the land at the time of the zoning change, not new uses.

Several other businesses on the property are also questionable. Artigues said that the burden of proof would be on Boudin. To keep the remaining businesses on the first parcel of land, Boudin would have to pro-

duce records proving that the use existed before the zoning change.

The board approved an appointment made by the Hancock County Water and Sewer Board to continue Herman Johnson as a board member for a five-year term. Rocky Pullman voted against the recommendation.

National Dance Institute 2002 Summer Residency

THE SEA COAST ECHO

The National Dance Institute 2002 Summer Residency will take place July 22 to August 2 in the Bay St. Louis High School Auditorium in Bay St. Louis for boys and girls grades 4-

7. Cost is \$50 for two weeks, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. For information or to register, contact the University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast, Division of continuing Education at 867-8777.

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Bay St. Louis, MS. - Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep of Bay St. Louis will dispose of 300 repossessions, lease returns, rental returns, auction vehicles and other pre-owned vehicles during a 5-DAY ONLY Mega Sale beginning Wednesday, June 26, 2002 and ending Sunday, June 30, 2002. Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep, located at 725 Highway 90, West, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, has retained The Southern Vehicle Liquidators, Inc. to help eliminate these vehicles.

With approved credit, buyers can take delivery any vehicle on Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep's lot by paying a \$49-down payment. Every vehicle will be clearly marked with prices and Payment options. Pick the car of your dreams for as low as \$79 per month.*

Here's how the sale works: Any customer who wants to participate in the \$49 Down Payment Mega Sale must register at the door at Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep, located at 725 Highway 90- West in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26th through Sunday, June 30th. With approved credit, customers simply choose any vehicle, pay \$49 down payment then make payments that fit their budget - payments low as \$79 per month.

Customers with previous credit problems an no problem during this \$49 Mega Sale. Credit specialists will be on-site with millions of dollars worth of credit available. These credit specialists have helped thousands of financially challenged customers to get the lowest possible monthly payment and rate. Customers should bring their current paycheck stubs, home telephone bill and driver's license to expedite the finance process. Customers with trades should bring their title and/or payment book to expedite delivery. Your trade will be paid off no matter what you owe.

Why would an auto dealer sell used cars for so little? The answer is simple: Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep has been inundated with trade-ins, lease returns, rental returns and other used cars. Management at Champion has acquired auction and repossession vehicles and simply MUST eliminate their inventory Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep has acquired many of these vehicles at incredible savings from several different bank sources and dealerships and now these savings will be passed on to you. Cars, trucks, Vans, SUVs, foreign, and domestic will be sold at 25% less than book value. These vehicles are in excellent condition and many have existing factory warranty.

Southern Vehicle Liquidators, Inc. will be at Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep of Bay St. Louis for 5 DAYS ONLY, from Wednesday, June 26th, 2002 to Sunday, June 30th, 2002. After 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 30th, 2002, Champion will return to normal business operations. All question should be directed to Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep at (228) 463-1510 or toll free at 1-877-807-0592. Hurry to Champion Chrysler Dodge Jeep of Bay St. Louis for this incredible savings event and get your pre-owned vehicle while this amazing offer is still available.

*Limit 2 vehicles per household. With approved credit. \$49 plus tax, title and fees. Example: 1997 Eagle Vision Stock #7773B; Sale price \$3,895. \$79 per month for 60 months at 9.0% a.p.r.; \$49 down-payment for a total of \$49 down plus tax. Total Amount financed \$3,846 plus tax. Total payments \$4,740 plus tax. Subject to credit approval. Subject to lenders' final approval. TOP Consultants, Inc. 2002. All rights reserved.

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NEW LOCATION 466-0425 (Next to McDonalds)

Hazardous Spill



An emergency crew from West Hancock Volunteer Fire Rescue works late Wednesday afternoon to clear a hazardous spill that occurred after a tractor-trailer hauling videotapes overturned on Hwy. 607 near Pearlington. West Hancock Fire-Rescue Chief Kim Jones said the truck leaked several gallons of diesel fuel, which ran into the creek and had to be cleaned up. Fire-Rescue personnel treated the driver for minor injuries at the scene, but he refused transport to Hancock Medical Center for further observation, Jones said. Also responding to the scene were officers of the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and AMR.

Big plans in store for Stennis Airport

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

The Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission will take one more chance in getting help to market Stennis International Airport.

Past efforts to draw big business to the airport have been somewhat unsuccessful. The commission voted on Monday to execute a \$100,810 business consultant contract with Applied Airport Technologies, Inc. for a marketing plan for the airport.

Commissioners are hopeful that improvements at the airport will enable them to draw air cargo businesses. Plans for a new 10,000 to 12,000 foot parallel runway to be placed about 5,000 feet to the west of the existing runway are on the drawing board.

A new Instrument Landing System will become operational in August, allowing added access to the airport by commercial aircraft. Plans for a control tower are also on the drawing board, said airport manager Bill Cötter, and are expected to be completed within one year.

Cötter said plans are to turn the new runway into a commercial area and to leave the existing runway

for use by general aviation.

In other business:

Commissioners passed a resolution rejecting all bids for the sale of timber and phase 1 and 2 clearing of land at the airport. They immediately passed another resolution authorizing the secretary to advertise for more bids. Apparently, some of the first round of bids were not properly submitted and contained not Mississippi State permit number on the outside of the envelope.

Hawks season passes on sale

All season passes for Hancock High/Middle School are currently on sale.

Passes may be purchased through the Athletic Department at the high school. The office is located in back of the gym.

Ticket prices have

increased this year as well as all season passes. Passes may also be purchased at all home events. For information, call 467-2972.

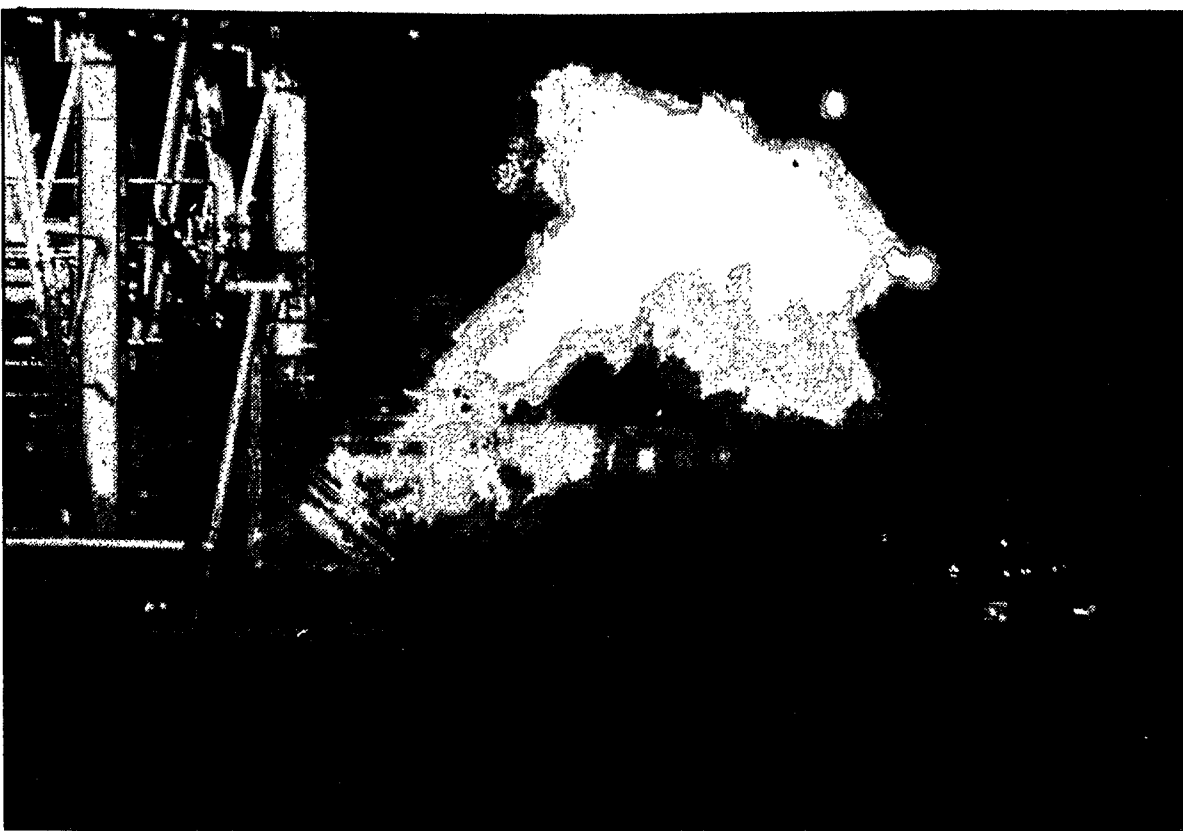
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A recent nighttime test of the Dept. of Defense's Integrated Powerhead Demonstration project at Stennis Space Center.

Testing of new propulsion system under way at Stennis

THE SEA COAST ECHO

Testing of the Department of Defense's Integrated Powerhead Demonstration (IPD) project, developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., is under way at Stennis Space Center's E-1 test facility.

The IPD engine program contributes technologies to NASA's Space Launch Initiative (SLI), a program aimed at improving the safety, reliability and cost effectiveness of the next generation of reusable launch vehicles for space travel.

"The IPD program supports the Department of Defense Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology Program (IHPRT)," said AFRL's Capt. Jeffery Thornburg, IPD project manager. "The goal of this IHPRT program is to satisfy our phase one milestones for doubling the capability of boost engines for access to space. IPD has also proven to be a very successful partnership between AFRL and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), Huntsville, Ala., who is providing technical expertise and program support."

According to Capt. Thornburg, the IPD engine design is a technical first for the United States. The full-flow staged combustion engine brings together combustion device components from Aerojet and turbomachinery and system integration from Rocketdyne Propulsion and Power.

Hydrostatic-bearing technology in the turbomachinery design and innovations from Aerojet incorporated into the combustion devices will extend the life cycle of the engine and reduce the amount of maintenance required between flights.

"The four-year testing program at Stennis will run in three phases," said NASA's Bruce Farnier, IPD test project manager at Stennis. "The first phase, already under way, will test the liquid oxygen turbopump. The second phase, scheduled to begin testing in the August-September 2003 time frame, will test the liquid hydrogen turbopump. The final phase will be a series of tests on IPD's integrated system, which will incorporate the two turbopumps into an engine configuration. This testing series is scheduled to begin in December 2003 and will demonstrate the start-up and operating characteristics of a full-flow staged combustion rocket engine."

"This program will provide the opportunity for Stennis not only to perform critical testing for SLI, but also will demonstrate the first full-scale operation of E-1, the largest component test facility in the nation," said NASA's Robert Lightfoot, director of the Propulsion Test Directorate at Stennis.

"The experience and lessons learned from this testing will be invaluable as we embark on several future SLI test programs to be done at E-1."

The goal of the Space

Launch Initiative is to design a space transportation system that can meet NASA's needs with greatly increased safety and reliability and at a much lower cost than current systems.

PRCC alumni meet Monday

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS
Publisher Emeritus
The Pearl River

Community College Alumni, Hancock County Chapter, will hold its election of officers and directors on Monday, July 1, 5 p.m., at the Hancock County Court Annex, Highway 90 Service Road, between Mississippi Power and Bay Pharmacy, Bay St. Louis.

"This will be the first meeting of the year for PRCC Alumni Chapter and in addition to the elections, discussions will be held about the 2nd annual Fish Fry which is set for Friday, August 9," Frank Ladner said.

The fish fry benefit will be held at the Civic Center, Longfellow Road from 4 to 8 p.m., and tickets are for a donation of \$5 each.

All proceeds from the fish fry will go toward the scholarship fund established last year.

Ladner said, "There are no dues for membership in the PRCC Alumni, Hancock County Chapter, and the fish fry is our main fund raiser to support the scholarship fund."

Proceeds from last year's fish fry helped fund scholarships for two Hancock

County students who graduated from PRCC in January, 2002.

The Pearl River Community Scholarship Committee makes the selection of the recipients.

Two scholarships will be awarded in August, Ladner said.

To be considered one must be a 2002 graduate of a high school in Hancock County.

Consideration will also be given to financial needs, in addition to at least a 2.5 high school grade point average, Ladner said.

Application information can be obtained by calling the PRCC Scholarship Department, 1-601-403-1183.

Current officers of the local chapter are Frank Ladner, president; J. Larry Ladner, vice-president; and Freda Cameron, secretary-treasurer.

Membership in the PRCC Alumni Hancock County Chapter has continued to grow since its inception last year, and Frank Ladner said, "I would like to see all former PRCC students of Hancock County as members."

Persons interested in more information about the

chapter may contact Frank Ladner at 467-7130, or J. Larry Ladner, 255-3393.

Blast in the Bay car show scheduled July 13

The City of Bay St. Louis and Champion Chrysler will sponsor the fifth annual Blast in the Bay classic car show on July 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the old Depot in Bay St. Louis. To register, call Gary or Tammy at the Bay St. Louis Fire Dept., 467-4736.

Bay High Class of 1992 reunion set for July 6

Bay High's 1992 Class Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, July 6, from 7-11 p.m. at the old Depot in Bay St. Louis. Tickets are \$25 per person. It's not too late to purchase tickets. Call Susan Moran Murray at 467-5847 or 493-5602 to reserve a ticket.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

HANCOCK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Hancock County Board of Education Regular Monthly Meeting for July 2002 has been changed and will be held Monday, July 8, 2002 at 5:30 p.m.

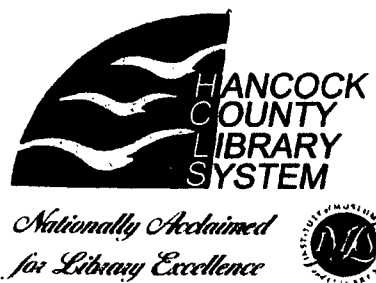
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GE PLASTICS
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WLOX TV-13
WVMI RADIO
DEBORAH ZUVICHEH



Echo brings home gold from MPA Awards

ECHO STAFF REPORT

The Sea Coast Echo brought home several awards last week from the annual Mississippi Press Association Awards Banquet, held at the Grand Casino Resort in Biloxi.

The awards were earned through the MPA's Better Newspapers Contest, Editorial Division, and included competition from every newspaper in the state.

In the weekly newspaper Division A (circulation greater than 4,000) the Echo earned awards in eight different categories, including:

- Best Front Page, First

Place, Echo staff.

- Best Special Section, Second Place, Echo staff.

- General Excellence, Third Place, Echo staff.

- Best Editorial, Honorable Mention, Echo Publisher Randy Ponder.

- Best Investigative Story, Second Place, Bennie Shallbetter and Geoff Belcher.

- Best Spot News Story, Second Place and Honorable Mention, Geoff Belcher.

- Best Spot News Photo, Honorable Mention, Geoff Belcher.

- Best General News Story, First Place, Geoff Belcher.

Bay man gets five years in death

BY SHANNON JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Bay St. Louis man will serve five years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to leaving the scene of an accident.

In October 2001, Lee Aaron Kelly, 33, was initially charged with DUI causing bodily injury and leav-

ing the scene of an accident after striking a pedestrian on Highway 90 about two miles west of Waveland.

The pedestrian, Roger Helsel of Chalmette, La., was killed.

District Attorney Chris Schmidt said Friday that Kelly was "not prosecuted for DUI as cause of death due to insufficient evidence."

OPINION

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2002

pg 4A



Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas
Publisher Emeritus

Frank Ladner dropped by the office this week and was excited about the success of the Pearl River Community College Alumni, Hancock County Chapter, which moves into its second year.

His main reason for stopping by was because the local PRCC Alumni will be holding its first meeting on Monday, July 1, 5 p.m. at the Hancock County Court Annex, (where Justice Court is held), Highway 90 Service Road next to Mississippi Power Company.

Another reason, the second annual Fish Fry, which is set for Friday, August 9, will be held at the Hancock County Civic Center, Longfellow Road.

The PRCC Alumni, Hancock County Chapter, is a non-dues organization, and membership is open to all Hancock County residents who have attended the community college.

The fish fry's proceeds are used to fund two scholarships to PRCC for graduates of Hancock County high schools.

Selection is made by PRCC's scholarship committee. Consideration is given for financial need, in addition to at least a 2.5 high school grade-point average.

Two scholarships will be awarded in August, and applications should be ready within a few days, according to Ladner.

Applications can be obtained by calling the PRCC Scholarship Department, 1-601-403-1183.

Further information can also be received from Frank Ladner, 467-7130, or J. Larry Ladner, 255-3393.

This is the time of year when crabs are running to hide, since they are on the main menu at the 18th annual Crab Festival for the benefit of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis. The Crab Fest this year is set for July 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the church grounds by Our Lady Academy.

This is OLG's biggest fund raiser, and it has so much to offer in very fine

seafoods in addition to regular local delights.

Crabs need to look out as the Crab Fest will have them stuffed, stuffed in potatoes, with shrimp in biscuits, and even fried claws.

There will also be boiled crabs and shrimp, crawfish etoufee, gumbo, red beans and rice, bronzed catfish, crawfish fettucini, jambalaya, burgers, hot dogs, fried catfish, desserts, etc.

The Crab Fest is an event for all ages, as there will be a special Kiddie Land.

The hours for Thursday, Friday and Saturday are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be arts and crafts, plants and flowers, T-shirts, aprons, a major raffle, and best of all, live entertainment each day.

Entertainment groups scheduled are: Thursday, 2-6 p.m., Southbound; 7-11 p.m., Relative Unknowns; Friday, 2-6 p.m., Rod Morris & Party Time Productions; 7-11 p.m., Saturday 2-6 p.m., Joe Matherne & Sunshine; 7-11 p.m., Keith Hoda Country Sounds; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dublin Street Band; and 4-8 p.m., Joe Matherne & Sunshine.

I hope to see you at the Crab Fest.

Fireworks will be on tap in several places this coming week because of the big holiday celebration.

Those I know about include the Clermont Harbor Civic Association and Volunteer Fire Department, which are set for Wednesday, July 3, on the beach at 9 p.m.

Casino Magic's major fireworks display is set for 9 p.m., also on Wednesday, July 3. This is a very large display, and one in which many of the spectators fill the Bay and Jourdan in boats. And on Thursday, July 4th, the Crane Creek Baptist Church will sponsor a fireworks display at the Necaise Ball Field with festivities beginning at 7 p.m. A special attraction will include an appearance by World Champion Bullrider Scott Mendes.

Creating new jobs for Mississippians

This week, Mississippians received two pieces of great news about job creation one affecting our largest private employer, and the other connected with Mississippi's newest and perhaps most talked-about industry.

Of course, these are Northrop Grumman Ingalls Shipbuilding and Nissan Motor Company respectively. Both companies are shining examples of how our state can compete with anyone when we all stick together.

As is well known, Governor Musgrove and I visited Nissan North America executives in Los



From the Senate

by U.S. Sen. Trent Lott

Angles during the spring of 2000.

By November, Nissan Motor Company had agreed to make Canton, Mississippi the site of its newest automobile manufacturing facility, creating 4,000 initial jobs at the Nissan plant, and tens-of-thousands of

jobs at nearby Nissan suppliers.

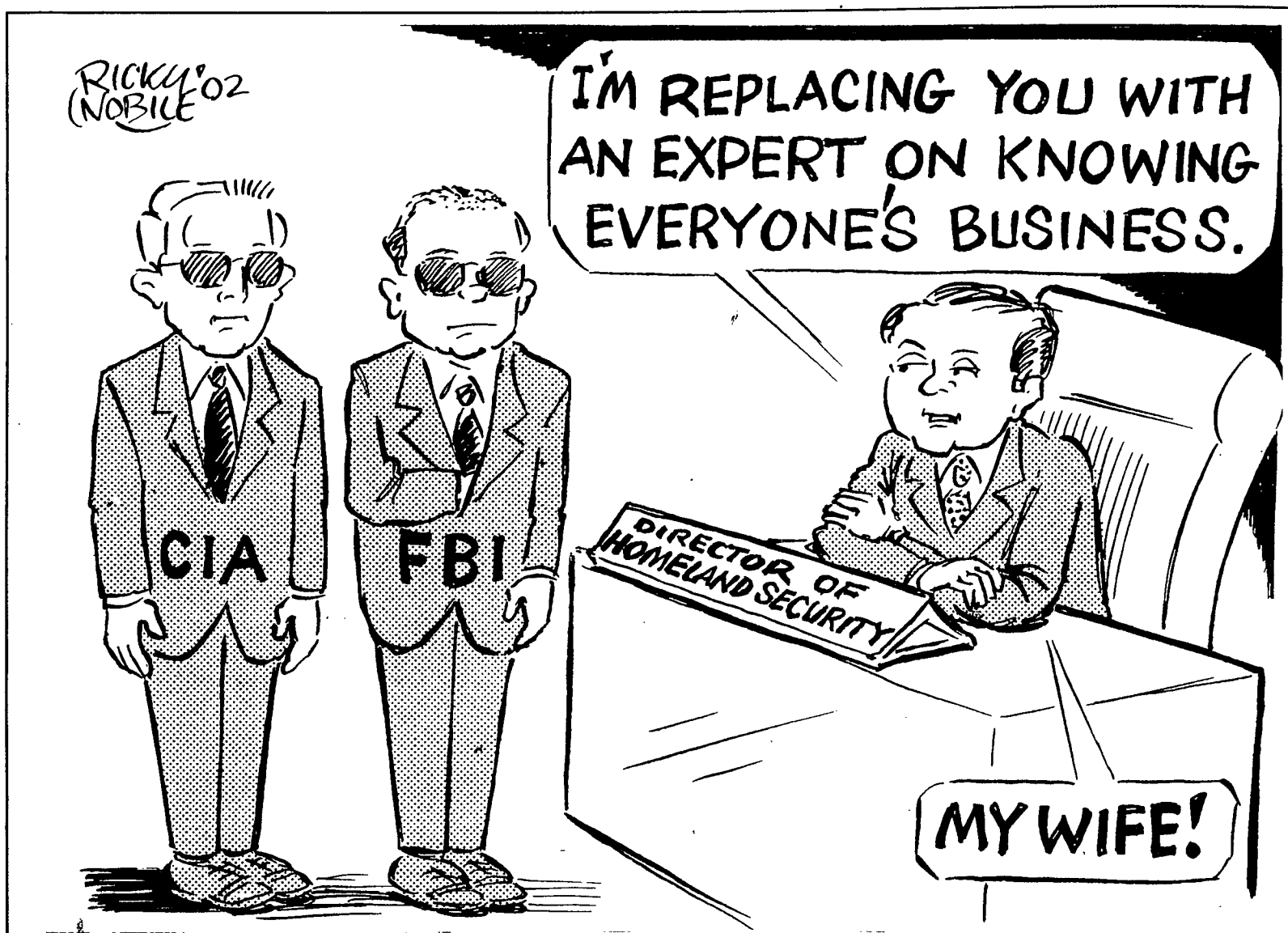
However, lesser known is that very early in these negotiations, Nissan's leadership made it clear to us that if everything went well in Mississippi, the company would fully consider Canton for a second project - a

Phase II effort by Nissan North America which could add another 1,300 to 2,000 Nissan jobs in Canton, and even more supplier jobs.

At that time, Governor Musgrove and I were told if Nissan's hopes for Mississippi were fully realized, almost 6,000 Nissan employees could eventually be working at Canton.

With the suppliers included, this would equate to more than 30,000 new manufacturing jobs for Mississippi, helping to produce almost 400,000 cars, pickups and SUVs per year at Canton.

LOTT-PAGE 5A



Judge's pledge decision is a travesty of justice

BY RICHARD J. SANTOS
American Legion
National Commander

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. We should have seen this coming. The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that desecrating the Flag of the United States is "protected speech."

If the 9th Circuit's ruling is allowed to stand, millions of American schoolchildren will be denied the right to recite the Pledge. The denial will exist simply because the phrase "one nation under God" offends one atheist and two judges. According to the warped reasoning used by the judges, the words amount to a government establishment of religion. Thus the Pledge is "unconstitutional." I can't help but wonder if these same judges pay their bills via unconstitutional means. After all, is not U.S. currency emblazoned with the words "In God We Trust?"

If the word "God" makes the Pledge unconstitutional, is the oath taken by witnesses in the courtrooms unconstitutional? What about the oaths of office taken by our public officials, including judges?

The 9th Circuit's decision clearly contradicts the very words uttered during the opening of each Supreme Court session: "God save the

United States and this honorable Court." In addition, the Senate and the House employ chaplains and recite prayers daily. It is obvious that the members of these bodies have read the entire First

DECISION MUST NOT STAND

Amendment, including the portion that states Congress shall pass no law "prohibiting the free exercise" of religion. The Courts ruled long ago that reciting the Pledge cannot be mandatory. Thus, only the rights of those belonging to the overwhelming majority of Americans are being denied.

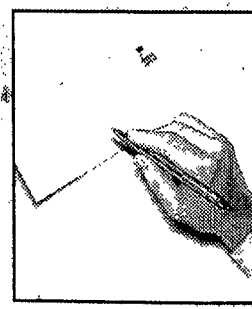
As national commander of The American Legion, I promise that our organization will stand with the American people all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary to correct this grave injustice. It is sad that while American troops are fighting a war against terrorism, our courts are fighting a war against the U.S. Flag. First, the Supreme Court rules that flag desecration is protected speech. Now, the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional.

Opponents of the flag protection amendment have warned of a "slippery slope." They were right, but the slope is not slanting in the direction they predicted. The Senate's failure to protect Old Glory and the

Letters to the Editor

Our letters policy

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are inappropriate.



actions of the 9th Circuit demonstrate that when you trivialize the flag of the United States, you trivialize everything associated with it. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., has called the 9th Circuit's ruling "just nuts." I share his view. I call upon him to extend his outrage to the earlier Supreme Court ruling, permitting flag desecration. Let us not fight this battle halfway. Respect for the flag and respect for the Pledge of Allegiance go hand-in-hand. If Sen. Daschle is serious about protecting the Pledge and the Flag, I ask him to schedule a vote and round up support for the flag-protection amendment immediately.

If you think that these court actions do not affect you, you are seriously mistaken.

In his dissent, 9th Circuit Judge Ferdinand F. Fernandez warns that even patriotic songs are endangered. "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful"

will be gone for sure," Fernandez said. "And while use of the first and second stanzas of the 'Star-Spangled Banner' will still be permissible, we will be precluded from straying into the third."

Perhaps this outrage would have never occurred if the judges had only read the Declaration of Independence. With its references to "God," the "Creator" and "divine Providence," it is clear that our founding fathers did not intend for America to be an atheistic nation. Moreover, flag-protection laws existed for 200 years before the Supreme Court ruled them unconstitutional. It is time to return to the American people the right to protect both: the Pledge of Allegiance and the Flag of the United States.

Richard J. Santos is national commander of the 2.8 million-member American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veterans organization.

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The New York Times Book Review Best Sellers

The Hancock County Library System reports the following books listed on the New York Times Best Seller List have been ordered by the system's libraries.

The library system has four branches: Bay St. Louis-Hancock County, Kiln Public, Pearllington Public and Waveland Library and Literacy Center.

FICTION

1 IN THIS MOUNTAIN, by Jan Karon. (Viking, \$25.95.) In the seventh book of the "Mitford Years" series, Cynthia Kavanagh thrives in retirement while her husband, Father Tim, grows restless.

2 FIRE ICE, by Clive Cussler with Paul Kemprecor. (Putnam, \$26.95.) Claiming to be a descendant of the Romanovs, a mining tycoon tries to overthrow the Russian government.

3 THE SHELTERS OF STONE, by Jean M. Auel. (Crown, \$28.95.) Love and danger in a prehistoric society.

4 THE NANNY DIARIES, by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus. (St. Martin's, \$24.95.) A satirical look at New Yorkers through the eyes of an East Side nanny.

5 MORTAL PREY, by John Sandford. (Putnam, \$26.95.) Lucas Davenport searches for a hit woman from his past who herself has become the target of a killer.

6 THE WAILING WIND, by Tony Hillerman. (HarperCollins, \$25.95.) Sgt. Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn, the retired Navajo tribal policeman, try to solve a homicide case involving a lost gold mine.

7 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 - ATTACK OF THE CLONES, by R. A. Salvatore. (Lucas/Del Rey/Ballantine, \$26.) The Republic edges toward disaster.

8 DADDY'S LITTLE

GIRL, by Mary Higgins Clark. (Simon & Schuster, \$26.) An investigative reporter discovers new information about her sister's murder.

9 THE EMPEROR OF OCEAN PARK, by Stephen L. Carter. (Knopf, \$26.95.) An investigative reporter discovers new information about her sister's murder.

10 THE SUMMONS, by John Grisham. (Doubleday, \$27.95.) A law professor who has been called home to Mississippi by his father, a dying judge, discovers more than \$3 million in cash in the old man's study.

11 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 - ATTACK OF THE CLONES, by R. A. Salvatore. (Lucas/Del Rey/Ballantine, \$26.) The Republic edges toward disaster.

NONFICTION

1 STUPID WHITE MEN, by Michael Moore. (Regan Books/HarperCollins, \$24.95.) The man behind "Roger & Me" takes aim at Republicans and Democrats, corporate America and our "nation-of idiots."

2 THE RIGHT WORDS AT THE RIGHT TIME, edited by Mario Thomas. (Atria, \$25.) More than 100 celebrities describe a turning point in their lives.

3 MASTER OF THE SENATE, by Robert A. Caro. (Knopf, \$35.) The third book in a multi-volume biography of Lyndon B. Johnson, covering the years 1949 to 1960.

4 A MIND AT A TIME, by Mel Levine. (Simon &



Schuster, \$26.) A professor of pediatrics examines the learning patterns of children and the various ways in which parents and other adults can help them succeed.

5 FIREHOUSE, by David Halberstam. (Hyperion, \$22.95.) A journalist's report on what one group of New York firefighters experienced on Sept. 11.

6 ODD GIRL OUT, by Rachel Simmons. (Harcourt, \$25.) A study of the secret lives of girls and the culture of female aggression.

7 LUCKY MAN, by Michael J. Fox. (Hyperion, \$22.95.) A memoir by the film and television actor, who was told a decade ago that he had Parkinson's disease.

8 MEDAL OF HONOR, by Allen Mikaelian. (Hyperion, \$25.95.) Profiles of American military heroes who served in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

9 FIND ME, by Rosie O'Donnell. (Warner, \$23.95.) The actress and talk show host discusses her childhood, her motherhood, and, especially, her long-distance friendship with an unwed teenage mother-to-be.

10 JOHN ADAMS, by David McCullough. (Simon & Schuster, \$36.) A biography of the country's first vice president and second president.

Lott -- jobs

Continued from Page 4A

With the announcement June 14 that Mississippi legislators will consider incentives for Nissan Phase II on June 21, it is now likely that by the time you read this column, Nissan Motor Company and Mississippi will be well on the way to fully achieving the exciting vision discussed more than two years ago in California.

"That is certainly significant news. Without a firm commitment by Mississippi, the thousands of Nissan Phase II jobs could have gone somewhere else — namely two locations in Tennessee, one in Canada or another competing site in Mexico.

However, Mississippians have stepped up to the plate once more, faced the competition and it looks like we will win these jobs.

Mississippi also again scored big with its largest private employer — Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Ingalls Operations, located in Pascagoula.

Ingalls has been building ships since the late 1930s, and it is now one of only a handful of shipyards constructing vessels for our Navy, and allied forces around the world.

However, the men and women of Ingalls still must

compete for contracts and win them. Every year, the pressure mounts on shipbuilders to produce better and better ships, and at the same time be more cost effective.

The men and women of Ingalls have developed a reputation for meeting these increasing demands. That is why the Navy last week selected Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Ingalls Operations to construct four additional LPD-17 San Antonio-Class amphibious ships. This decision equates to about \$4 billion and 4 years worth of work for the men and women of Ingalls.

LPD ships are crucial to meeting our Marine Corps future lift requirements. They will help make the Marines an even more mobile, adaptive force to meet the emerging threats posed by terrorists and rogue nations.

Previously the LPD program had been carried out by two shipyards. Now with the execution of this contract by a single company — Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Ingalls Operations — the Navy hopes to save considerable costs and avoid time consuming, redundant efforts which would be

incurred by the continued use of two separate facilities.

This contract comes on the heels of an astounding contract which could eventually be valued at between \$30 billion to \$60 billion awarded to Ingalls May 9 for the (X) program.

This means a completely new generation of surface ships will be built right here in Mississippi, ensuring that Ingalls will be a major player in America's defense for years to come.

Nissan and Ingalls — two great examples of what Mississippians can do when given a chance. Those who poor mouth Mississippi and Mississippi's workforce, may need to spend a little time talking to the folks at Nissan or at Ingalls.

There we find the truth about Mississippi's dedicated workers, and a true vision of the type of good job opportunities we can bring to many more Mississippians if we keep the right attitude.

Senator Lott welcomes any questions or comments about this column. Write to: U.S. Senator Trent Lott, 487 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (Attn: Press Office)

Bay St. Louis Dixie Girls host tournament

THE SEA COAST ECHO Bay St. Louis Dixie Girls will host the 2002 State Tournament. This tournament will begin Friday, July 19. Bay St. Louis Dixie Girls are expecting approximately 1500 - 2000 people to visit Bay St. Louis for this event.

Bay St. Louis Dixie Girls are in the process of organizing this huge event for Bay St. Louis.

They will be contacting

various civic organizations and asking for volunteers for the tournament.

They have mailed out to numerous businesses sponsorship letters asking them if they want to be a corporate sponsor.

There will also be a program ad booklet as a souvenir. Ads are \$35 for 1/4 page, \$50 for a 1/2 page and \$75 for a full page. If you would like to place an ad,

please send your ad, along with check made payable to Dixie Girls to P.O. Box 298, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520.

The group is still accepting any kind of donation, including money, time, materials and raffle items. For donation information, call Kelly Blanchard at 467-2318.

The group is also looking for volunteers. Call Penny Broge at 467-3192.

Musgrove announces restoration of \$12.9 M in education funding

THE SEA COAST ECHO Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced the restoration of approximately \$12.9 million to minimum education.

"We must invest in our children. By investing in our local schools, we are demonstrating our commitment to communities that we put education first," Musgrove said.


"This will not only help our children, it will also continue our efforts to improve the quality of life for all Mississippians."

"Public schools in Mississippi will be very grateful. This money will go a long way to help restore the cuts that we have experienced," said Henry Arledge, superintendent of the Harrison County School District.

"The Governor is to be commended. He has said that education is a priority, and he is clearly demonstrating that to us. Without his leadership, this state will not progress and move forward."

Governor Musgrove has the authority to use \$50 million from the working cash stabilization fund each fiscal year. This \$12 million is the balance of the Governor's FY 2002 \$50 million.

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Hancock High 11th grade spring semester awards

Superintendent's List
(All A's for Spring Semester): Natasha Arce, David Breland, Amber Faye, Veronica Fucich, Kalin Genchev, Lacey Grimes, Meghan Hedrick, Erin Johnson, Cody Ladner, Jada Ladner, Mallerie Ladner, Marcus Ladner, Yves Martins, Devin Necaise, Cody Owens, Belynn Sheffield, Jessica Stimens

Principal's List (A's and B's for Spring Semester): Adrian Boone, Daron Boone, Alison Bourne, Chelsea Caldwell, Michelle Campanali, Natacha Campello, Jennifer Casey

Cassie Cosse, John Craven, Jonathan Cuevas, Tabbetha Daigre, Randall Dannemann, Jahnvi Delgado, Jamie Flowers, Vivian Gibson, Charles Guidos, Brian Hamburg, Dana Harris, James Harris, Brandon Hunt, Emily Hunter

Benjamin Hynes, Jacqueline Jeanfreau, Adam Ladner, Daron Ladner, Dexter Ladner, Duon Ladner, Levi Ladner, Dung Le, Kacey Lee, Lavonna Lee, Brandy Lombardino, Mark Manuel, Holli Martin

Frank McKinley, Heather Moran, Joseph Munger, Rachel Necaise, Amber Payne, Courtney Peterson, Kimberly Phillips, Eric

Quibodeaux, Kimberly Ray, Jamie Reeves, Letisha Shiyu, Ashley Smith, Dianna Smith, Cynthia Spangler, Kayla Stephenson, Jeremy Strief, Stillwell, Jeremy Strief, Hope Theobald, Pepper Vance, Karidy Washington, Kacey Watts, Ashley Zoerner

Perfect Attendance: Jason Ballard, Zachary Bass, Adrian Boone, Daron Boone, Posha Briney, Chelsea Caldwell, Michelle Campanali

International Youth Ambassador: Natacha Campello, Scott Colson, Cassie Cosse, Justin Dedeaux, Jahnvi Delgado, James Dunhurst

Jamie Flowers, Justin Fowler, Veronica Fucich, Nathan Gholston, Vivian Gibson, Lacey Grimes, Brian Hamburg, Christopher Holland, Jason Homer, Benjamin Hynes, Christopher Jones

Adam Ladner, Daron Ladner, Darryl Ladner, Duon Ladner, Jada Ladner, Marcus Ladner, Aaron Lee, Jessica Lerouge, Mark Manuel, Yves Martins, Brandon Necaise, Jamie Reeves, Adam Rosser, Michael Scarborough, Belynn Sheffield, Dianna Smith, Joshua Spiers, Kacey Stephenson

Jessica Stimens, Jeremy Strief, Flynn Talley, Hope Theobald, Peter Trosclair, Naeem Uddin, Kacey Watts, Andrea White, Kortney Wilkinson, Misty Zoerner

American Legion Girls State: Alison Bourne, Posha Briney, Jamie

Flowers, Veronica Fucich, Lacey Grimes, Dana Harris, Kacey Lee, Lavonna Lee, Cynthia Spangler, Kayla Stephenson, Jessica Stimens, Andrea White, Kortney Wilkinson, Ashley Zoerner

American Legion Boys State: Zachary Bass, Nathan Gholston, Christopher Holland, Rance Necaise, Brandon Shaw

Other Awards: Chamber of Commerce Student Director and Lion's Club Leadership Award: Veronica Fucich

Boeing/Rocketdyne Math & Science Award: Erin Johnson

English III Academic: Alison Bourne, Paloma Vasconcelos

English III Accelerated Academic: Veronica Fucich

English III Accelerated Achievement: Jamie Reeves

Basic English I Academic: Kerry Ladner

Metal Trades I Achievement: Donald Famularo

Metal Trades II Academic: Mark Manuel, Jeremy Stilwell

Metal Trades II Achievement: Travis Barber

Health Academic: Natasha Arce

Business Technology I Academic: Yves Martins

Business Technology I Achievement: Wannetta Payne, Kimberly Phillips

Business Technology II Academic: Eric Quibodeaux

Welding II Academic: Derek Spiers

Welding II Achievement: Justin Ferrill

Building Trades II Achievement: Chris Cain

Spanish II Achievement: Rachelle Garcia

Spanish II Academic: Mallerie Ladner

Child Care II Academic: Posha Briney

Child Care II Achievement: Stacey Gunderson

Cooperative Education Achievement: Dexter Ladner

Drafting II Achievement: Andrew Breaux

Building Trades I Achievement: Pepper Vance

U.S. History Academic: Devin Necaise, Kortney Wilkinson

U.S. History Achievement: Derek Spiers,

Ashley Zoerner, U.S. History Advanced Placement Academic: Andrea White

Psychology Achievement: Andrea White

Sociology Academic: Andrea White

Physics II Achievement: Jahnvi Delgado

Physics II Academic: Erin Johnson

Chemistry I Academic: Amber Faye

Chemistry I Achievement: Alison Bourne

Humanities Achievement: Natasha Arce

Geology Academic: Jennifer Casey

Mythology Academic: Amber Faye

Human Anatomy Achievement: Andrew Breaux

Technology Applications I Achievement: Steven Knoblock

Technology Applications II Academic: Jonathan Cuevas

Technology Applications II Achievement: Mark Shiyu

Marine Science Academic: Tabbetha Daigre

Genetics Achievement: Jamie Flowers

Chorus Achievement: Justin Guthrie

Computer Applications Academic: Lindsey Wheeler

Economics Academic: Stacey Gunderson

Lodging & Hospitality I Achievement: Lindsey Wheeler

Lodging & Hospitality II Achievement: Jamie Reeves

Keyboarding Academic: Lindsey Wheeler

Keyboarding Achievement: Naeem Uddin

French II Academic: Jessica Stimens

Driver's Education Achievement: Melissa Smith

Astronomy Academic: Daron Ladner

Marine Science Academic: Mallerie Ladner

Genetics Academic: Marcus Ladner

Geometry Honors Academic: Holli Martin

Geometry Honors Achievement: Ricky Underwood

Physics II Academic: Yves Martins

Entrepreneurship Achievement: Amy Marquar

Learning Strategies Academic: Brandon Necaise

Learning Strategies Achievement: Justin Guthrie

Computer Applications Academic: Lindsey Wheeler

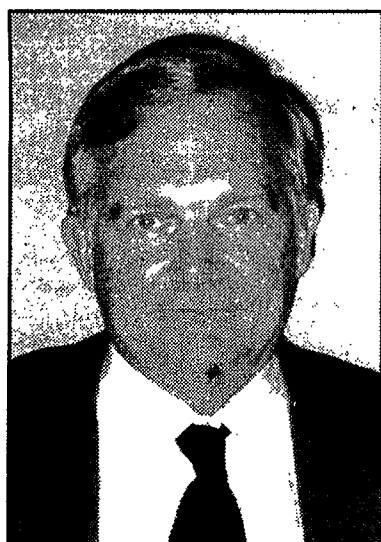
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USMGC prof retires after 29 years' service

THE SEA COAST ECHO
A retirement reception was held at the University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast last week for long-time educator Dr. Theron Manly for his 29 years of service.

Manly's last official work day is June 28. He has served as an associate professor of educational leadership and research at USMGC, and as state director of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"I've enjoyed my work here at USM Gulf Coast tremendously," said Manly. "I've made many great memories here. I would like to compliment everyone who works at USM Gulf Coast for doing such a fine job."



Dr. Theron Manly

"We thank him for his excellent service to USM Gulf Coast and wish him well in the next steps of his life," said Dr. James Williams, vice president at USMGC.

Record numbers attend libraries' summer programs

THE SEA COAST ECHO
More than 800 children registered for the Hancock County Library System's 2002 Summer Reading Program this year, reading more than 18,000 books in four weeks, an average of 4,500 books per week and 25 books per child.

The Kiln Public Library registered 302 children, with a total of 1,073 children and 526 adults attending the programs.

The Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library registered 529 children. A total of 1,207 children and 534 adults attended the programs.

Registration for the Pearlinton Public Library

was 47, with more than 163 children and 88 adults attending programs.

Prize winners at the various programs were Cassandra Acker, Alissa Adam, Joseph Burch, Cameron Boughton, Daniel Carter, Michael Carter, Tabitha Davies, Jill Debenport, Nicole Garber and Jared Garza.

Also, Mica Heasley, Matt Hudgens, Bethany Johnson, Aaron Ladner, Kyle Ladner, Matthew Ladner, Matthew McCarty, Alexis Palode, David Palode, Samuel Palode, Tashauna Patmon, Sarah Prine, Glenda Rockwell, Taraka Rossomando, R. J. Siener and Holly Taylor.

Burns is Lincoln graduate

Lincoln Southeast Community College, Lincoln, Neb. campus held its spring quarter graduation June 8 in the Activities Center on the Lincoln cam-

pus. Brenda Burns from Bay St. Louis was graduated with a Certificate in Professional Truck Driver Training.

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00 CHEVY 3500 HI TOP CONVERSION VAN Southern Comfort Conversion Pkg., Only 15k Miles \$26,995	97 CHEVY MALIBU Only 33k Miles, Automatic, Nice! \$6,995	00 CHEVY BLAZER 24k Miles, Automatic, Factory Warr. \$12,995	97 CHEVY SUBURBAN LT Leather, Local Trade \$13,995

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Book signing



Joel Bullock, left, reference assistant at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library, and Andrea Kyzar, Pearllington Public Library branch manager, recently participated at a book signing at Bookends Bookstore with author Fred Womack. Womack's book, *Untaught and Unlearned Knowledge*, a book about faith, was illustrated by Bullock and edited by Kyzar. Womack, a Christian minister for 35 years, has taught for a number of years as an adjunct professor at the collegiate and seminary level in America and abroad.

Fourth

Continued from Page 1A

tion to all of those problems this week.

Garber also warned that it is not wise to drink alcohol while taking some prescription drugs.

"The taking of some prescription drugs work to impair one's ability," he said, "and that person can, if driving could be charged with DUI."

Deputies will also be checking on seat belt and proper child restraints uses, in addition to making sure motorists have proper liability insurance.

Garber said his regular patrol deputies will also be joined by auxiliary deputies in their efforts to make it a safe holiday week for everyone.

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B-W school board wants to create new alternative school

BY SHANNON JENKINS, Staff Writer

During last week's board meeting of the Bay/Waveland School District, members discussed the proposed lease agreement with Christ Episcopal Church for a new alternative school building.

The current location of the alternative school is at a facility donated by the city of Bay St. Louis behind the gym of the former Valena C.

Jones High School.

The district is currently in negotiations for a five-year lease on the building that once housed the Coast Episcopal Elementary School located behind Christ Episcopal Church on Beach Boulevard.

Superintendent Kim Stasny said the current alternative school houses 25 students in sixth through 12th grades.

"(We) had to cap enroll-

ment due to space restraints," she said. "The new building has eight classrooms and will allow us to probably increase enrollment to 35 students with the staff we have available without hiring new teachers." In an alternative school, Stasny said, the goal is to have a low teacher/pupil ratio. She said the district hopes to move into the new building before school opens Aug. 9.

Wellman

Continued from Page 1A

ty, said the Pearl River plant's expansion will cost between \$50 to \$60 million and will create about 20 to 30 jobs.

"We plan to give the first opportunity (for the new jobs) to the pool of employees who were laid off in December 2000," Woody said.

The first step of the expansion involves an agreement between

Wellman Inc. and Voridian Company, a division of Eastman Chemical Company, "resulting in increased North American PET bottle resin capacity."

Wellman's Palmetto, S.C., facility will work with Voridian to "increase the PET resin capacity by up to 260 million pounds per year." Initial production is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2003.

Liberty

Continued from Page ##

asked to participate in the program. The commission collaborated with the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McArthur, Carter's

Nursery, the city of Pass Christian, Harrison County Board of Supervisors and Southern Printing to develop this tribute to the Sept. 11 victims.

Sportfishing licenses expire today

Anglers will be introduced to an automated licensing system on July 1 when purchasing new recreational saltwater sportfishing licenses at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR).

Current recreational saltwater sportfishing licenses expire June 30, 2002. Annual licenses cost \$5 and are valid from July 1

to June 30 of the next year.

The DMR as well as more than 600 other licensing agents across the state will be using Mississippi Electronic Licensing (MEL) to print personalized licenses on durable stock and to provide faster, more consistent service to customers.

For more information, contact the DMR at (228) 374-5000.

On-line renewal for driver's licenses

THE SEA COAST ECHO
Governor Ronnie Musgrove recently unveiled the latest in e-government technology: An on-line driver's license renewal program that allows Mississippi drivers to get a new license without waiting in line.

"Today, we took another step forward into the new and exciting world of what we call 'e-government' - that effort to use technology to better serve the people of Mississippi," Musgrove said. "With the click of a mouse button, you will be able to renew your Mississippi driver's license and save yourself time for other things you need to do."

The on-line driver's license renewal system is a development of the e-Government Commission created by Musgrove two years ago. Other programs are being developed as a result of the commission's work, including the ability to obtain a hunting license from the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks or a DEQ permit online.

"The role of technology in our everyday lives is constantly growing, changing, and evolving, and we have to be prepared to use it and make it work for us," said Musgrove. "That's exactly what we've done here."

The new program went live June 14 at noon. To view the program, visit the Mississippi Department of Public Safety's website at www.dps.state.ms.us.

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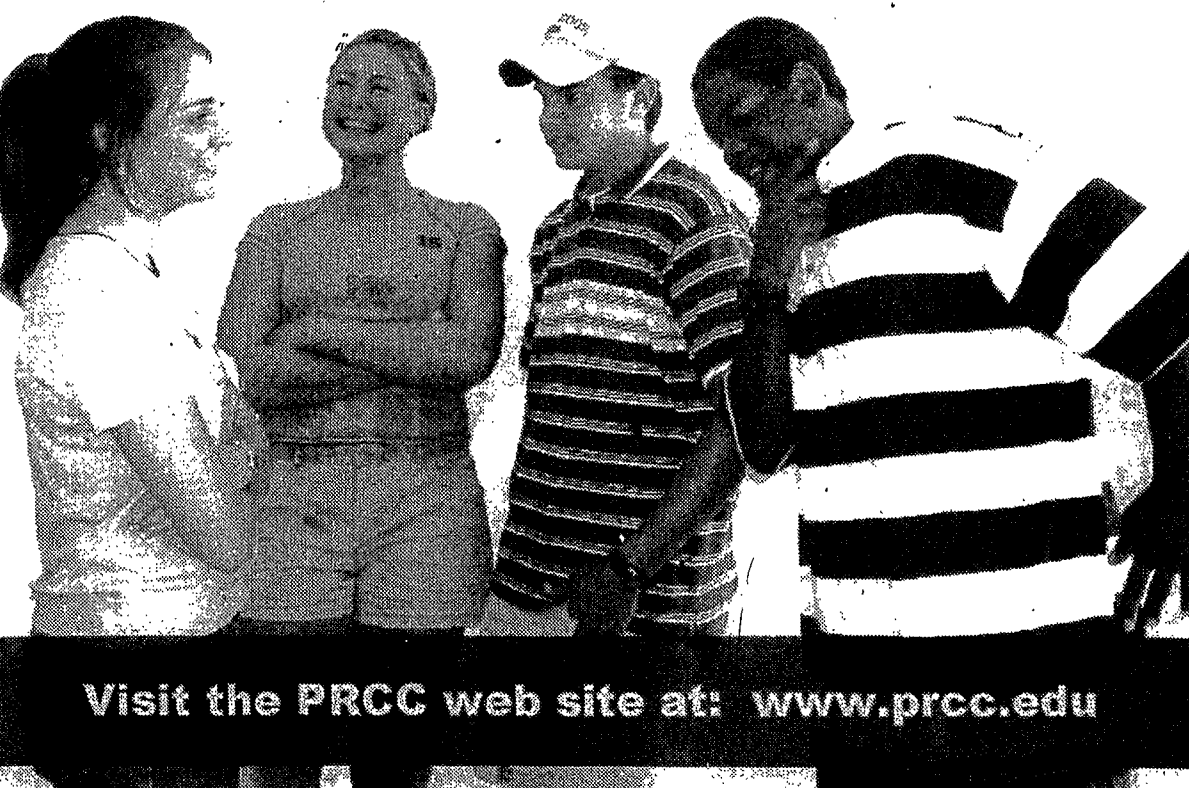
Fall 2002 Orientation & Registration - July 9-12

Tuesday, July 9	Wednesday, July 10	Thursday, July 11	Friday, July 12
8 AM-"A" - "D"	8 AM-"J" - "M"	8 AM-"S" - "V"	8 AM-"A" - "M"
1 PM-"E" - "I"	1 PM-"N" - "R"	1 PM-"W" - "Z"	1 PM-"N" - "Z"

(For Students who will not attend on their specific date and for students living out of state.)

Orientation/Early Registration fee for students is \$25.

For More Information, call: (601) 403-1197



Visit the PRCC web site at: www.prcc.edu

St. Stanislaus second semester honor roll

Brother Ronald Hingle, S.C., Principal of St. Stanislaus College, has recognized the following students for achieving honor roll status for the second semester of the 2001-2002 academic session. Of the 550 students in grades 6-12 attending St. Stanislaus, 43% achieved honor roll status for the second semester.

SENIORS

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL: (4.0 Average): Taylor Butterworth, Brian Landry, Sherwin Leung, and Bobby Morell.

ALPHA HONOR ROLL: Brent Acker, Drew Cranford, Keith Fleniken, Jarrod Gilmore, Terry Naidoo, Sebastian Nieves, Chris Patterson, Randy Piglia, Eddie Renz, Cheick Sanankoua, Rodrigo Sevilla Baltodano, Lance Stringfellow, and Brian Sy.

BETA HONOR ROLL: Danny Alario, Cherubin Alcalen, Balla, BA, Collins Baran, Blake Bilbo, Ross Ford, Curry Gambel, Brandon Jung, Stephen Kulikowski, B. J. Ledet, Fisher Maddox, Robert Mayne, John Murphy, Mark Pelleteri, Tom Swayze, Sheldon White, and James Wilkinson.

JUNIORS

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL: (4.0 Average): Jesse Brown and Nathan Sison.

ALPHA HONOR ROLL: Uchenna Aduba, Will Boxx, Paul Burnett, Felipe Chapa Guevara, Peter Doty, Nate Franco, Chris Griffith, Chad Ladner, Frederick Mallini, Jason Nicosia, Mario Nieves, Phillip OH, Kunal Patel, Junior Salumu-Shabani, Stephen Schroll, Danny Surbeck, and Louis West.

BETA HONOR ROLL: Brett Amond, Ben Benvenuti, Jeremy Boelte, Matt Burke, William Coleman, Ryan DeLaune, Mason Gordon, Scott Hillanbrand, Brett Hode, Jerrime Kitsos, Ben McMath, Peter Murphy, Ted Plocharski Schutt, Jo Sam Rolfe, Paul Thibodeaux, Trey Treutel, J.W. Washington, and Gabe Willis.

SOPHOMORES

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL: (4.0 Average): Beau Brodtmann, Michael Enloe, Mario Faranda Barchi, Joshua Robinson, Corey Vollenweider, and Andrew Waterman.

ALPHA HONOR ROLL: Bob Bass, Aaron Baxter, Marc Belizaire, David Bradley, Stephen Carville, John Chapoton, Luca Giardino, Mason Hester, Eric Huckabee, Mike Iskandar, T.J. Koger, Will Mestayer, Tono Patron Courtney, Chris Williams, and Colin Wilson.

BETA HONOR ROLL: Brad Blanchard, Justin Boyce, Jeremy Burke, David Clayton, Stefan Clayton, Tyler Gallagher, Michael Giovingo, Juan Pablo Goff Millet, Jake Johnson, Jared Kuehne, Hunter Landgrave, Kyle Lewis, Josh Lingsch, Craig Maxson, David May, Joe Mortimer, Rob Murray, Robert Olsen, Christopher Roth, Andrew Walsh, and Spencer Zeigler.

FRESHMEN

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL: (4.0 Average): Heath Hansell, and Austin Ladner.

ALPHA HONOR ROLL: Micah Baxter, Kody Cannon, Michael Cure, Robert Goggins, Troy Johnston, Lee Klein,

Michael Roy, Bruce Rushing, Ramsey Shawa, Stephan Sofianos, and Robert Watson.

BETA HONOR ROLL: Brad Bissonnet, Stefan Bittlingmayer, Devin Caboni-Quinn, Eric Cranford, Christopher Currie, Floyd Dedaux, Patrick Donohoe, Joseph Fowler, Edward Gamard, Sam Hall, John Lumpkin, Jeremy Nelson, Wynne Taylor, Brennen Thomas, Christian Walter, Jeffrey Yeager, and Ernesto Zarate Diaz Infante.

8TH GRADE

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL: (4.0 Average): Garrett Gros, Cole Larsen, Daniel Mortimer, Brad Reinhart, James Surgi, and Clay Tate.

ALPHA HONOR ROLL: Kevin Duvieilh, Austin Gaffney, Miles Hester, Stephen Keel, Ross Landgrave, Matthew Planchard, Mauricio Sanchez Santos, Ryan Stechmann, Christopher Tran, and Brian Whitman.

BETA HONOR ROLL: Jorge Alanis Verastegui, Edward Allen, Rafael Andres Gomez, Andrew Chevis, Lance Cuevas, William Currie, Mike Deifik, Drew Giveans, Brenan Gordon, Don Haller, Jose Hernandez Garate, Andrew Hillanbrand, Ross Hotard, Kyle Hughes, James Langdon, Jeremy Mire, Micahel Neeb, Jorge Peart Zapata, Matt Pierce, Ben Rader, Christopher Rogers, Sylvester Twigg, Tommy Wallace, Mason Watson, and James Zedak.

7TH GRADE

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL: (4.0 Average): Ryan

Boutet, Sean Bradford, Dayne Coscia, Joshua Crowe, Ryan Heath, Brian Jackson, Hayden Kren, Michael Morell, Bryce Morreale, Taylor Spinoso, Andrew Taylor, and Matthew Vollenweider.

ALPHA HONOR ROLL: Keith Bartholomew, Sean Bentz, Alex Boudreaux, Reilly Bourgeois, Braulio Cardenas Abedrop, Joseph Cure, Enrique Diaz-Infante, Taylor Feigel, David Grapusa, Joel Gregory, Jimmy Headley, Ryan Hoda, Roger Lacoste, Brad Lingsch, Caleb McQueen, Henri Pellerin, Andre Romain, Clark Seal, and Matthew Theologos.

BETA HONOR ROLL: Granston Boxx, Brit Breland, Luis Camacho Sanchez Septien, Micah Elkins, Trevor Gex, John Hadden, Bryan Hall, Kytte Hall, Matt Hudgens, Paris Kass, Chase Kleinpeter, Tony Myers, Christian Rittman, Andoni Rumayor, Brian Simonson, Chaz Singleton, and Ricardo Villarreal del Bosque.

6TH GRADE

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL: (4.0 Average): Harrison Hodges.

BETA HONOR ROLL: Carl Conrad.

St. Stanislaus College is a Catholic residency and day school for young men in grades 6-12. The school fosters character formation and integrates faith development within a curriculum which is primarily college preparatory.

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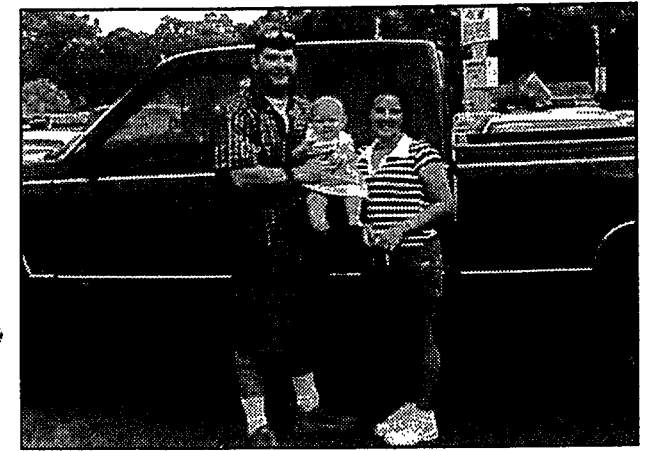
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USM & USDA internship program helping Pass student

THE SEA COAST ECHO

A budding relationship between the University of Southern Mississippi's Department of Economic Development and the Mississippi office of the U.S. Rural Development Administration has given Vanessa Goeschl's career a jumpstart.

A graduate student in economic development from Pass Christian, Goeschl is the first USM student to participate in an internship with RDA, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A month into the job, she has found it to be just what she was after.

"This is giving me a chance to get some real hands-on experience," Goeschl said of the internship, a requirement in the economic development curriculum. "I'm seeing what it actually takes to get an economic development project off the ground."

Nick Walters, state director for RDA, said a continuous internship was an idea that came up in discussions with Robert Ingram, economic development assistant to USM President Shelby Thames.

"Robert and I were talk-

ing about how (RDA) can expand our role in rural economic development, and part of that drive is to become more involved in community development," he said. "Expanding on that, we're going to have a paid internship, strictly for a person in USM's master's program in economic development."

The internship, Walters said, is designed to be practical.

"We're making sure she is learning how our agency works," he said. "At some point, we're going to hook her up with a couple of communities, let her go in and find out what their needs are and how we can best help them."

"We appreciate the support from RDA and we know the students appreciate the opportunity," said Thames, who met with Walters Thursday on the Hattiesburg campus. "There's nothing like being right in the middle, where the rubber meets the road, and this internship will give the students some actual experience."

Ingram said the internship, which he said is the first of what should be

many partnerships between the program and the state. RDA office, is a win-win situation for the university and the agency.

"RDA will be able to utilize full-time economic development interns, who have great understanding of the community and economic development process, to assist RDA in improving the quality of life and standard of living in Mississippi's rural communities," he said. "The interns will receive tremendous real-world experience to complement their formal education and will have a comprehensive working knowledge of RDA's programs to put to work in the communities in which they are ultimately hired."

Goeschl admits that the internship, which is set for the summer but could be extended for the fall, has provided her with a good opportunity to network.

"This definitely opens a lot of doors for me," she said. "Not only that, but I am getting an opportunity to learn about all the program available through RDA, and that will benefit me wherever I go in the field."

Social Singles activities

Sunday, June 30
Social Singles will meet at 4:45 p.m. at the entrance to the Copa Showroom in the Copa Casino for the Mississippi Coast Jazz Society concert, 5 to 8 p.m.

Monday, July 1
Social Single will meet at 7:45 p.m. at the benches outside the Savannah Restaurant on your left, as you enter the main entrance to the casino, and then proceed to the Eclipse Showroom to see Comedy Express. With questions,

call Joyce at 452-2358.

Wednesday, July 3

Social Singles have their

weekly informal get-together at Neazy's Café, 360 Courthouse Road, Gulfport (228) 897-2369 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more details contact Joyce at 452-2358.

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BUSINESS NEWS



Groundbreaking

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Thursday for Coast Electric's Bernard A. Mutter, III Service Center in Kiln. The facility is named in memory of veteran employee Bernard A. Mutter III, who tragically lost his life in 2001. Among the hundreds attending the ground breaking were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben A. Mutter, Jr., daughter Kristina Marie Mutter, brother Greg Mutter, sisters Nanette Griffin, and Rosanne Milner, and other family members, and Coast Electric's executive vice-president/general manager, Robert J. Occhi and other Coast Electric officials. The new complex is located on 28 acres at the intersection of Highways 43 and 603. The complex will include the association's apparatus shop, vehicle shop, warehouse and staff office. Occhi said some 50 employees will work in the facility.

FGH sale date set

Friede Goldman Halter, Inc. (OTCBB: FGHLQ) received milestone dates from the US Bankruptcy Court regarding the sale of Hatter Marine.

The court auction date has been set for July 16, 2002 with the sale hearing to take place on July 23.

A copy of the procedures for participating in the auction is available from counsel for the Selling Debtors, Douglas G. Walter, Andrews & Kurth, Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, 800 Travis, Suite 4200, Houston, Texas 77002.

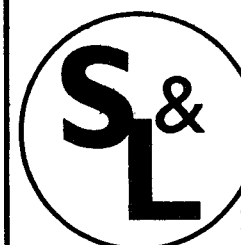
The closing is expected to take place in early August 2002.

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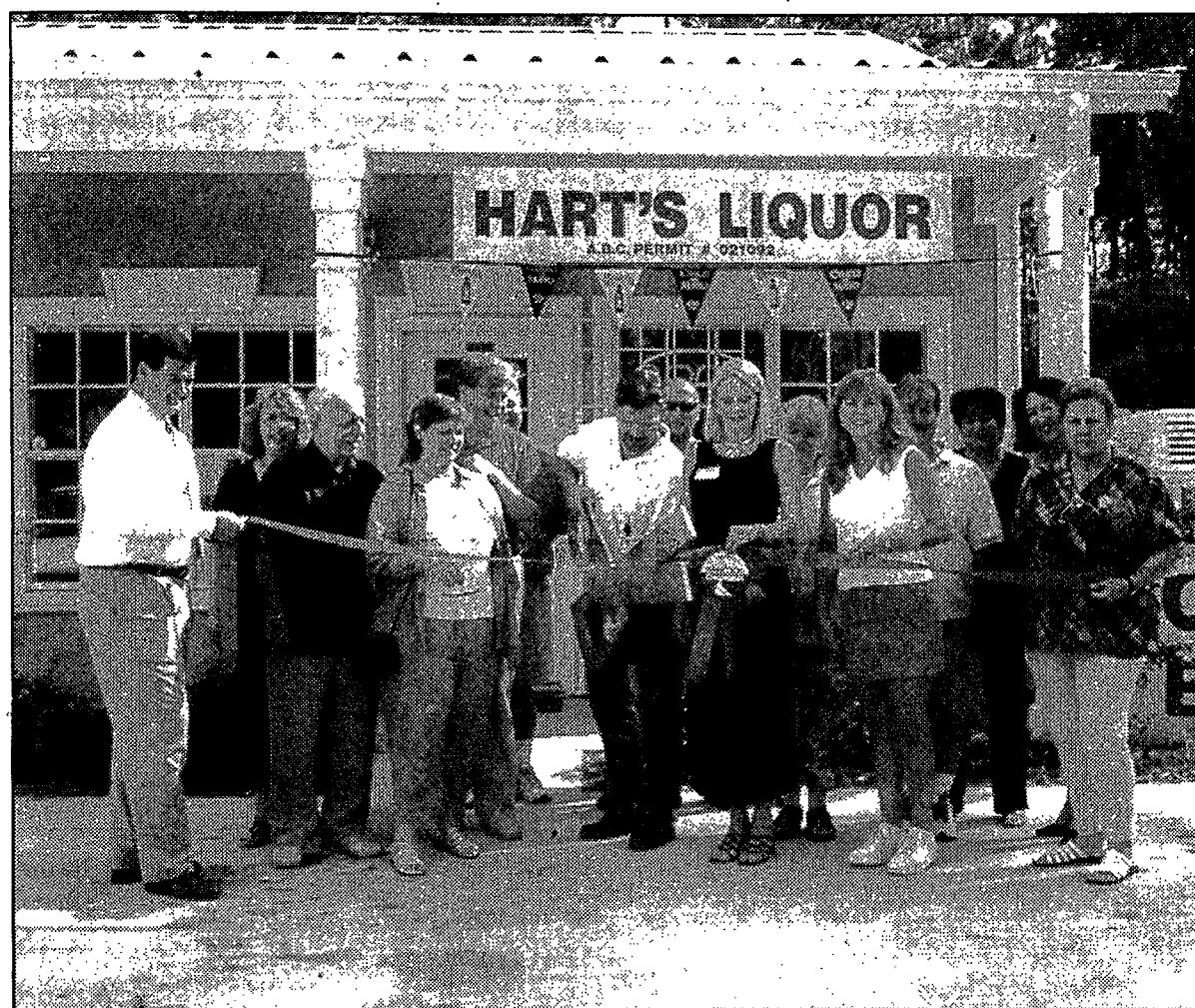


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Grand opening

Hart's Liquor, 10385 Highway 603, Bay St. Louis, recently celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting. In attendance were John Baxter, Philip Folse, Elizabeth Veglia, Billy Ray Sanders, owners Philip and Leigh Hart, Melanie Delcuze, Tish Haas Williams and Linda Graffeo. The new business is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and offers domestic and imported wines, spirits, liqueurs and mixers. (Staff photo by Cecilia Howe)

Mitchell named manager

Advance Auto Parts recently announced the appointment of Heath Mitchell as manager of its newly converted store at 1145 Highway 90 in Bay St. Louis, following the company's merger with Discount Auto Parts.

As manager, Mitchell's responsibilities include all sales and promotional activities, customer service and inventory management at the new store.

In addition, he supervises approximately 10 employees.

Mitchell has been with the Advance team for five years and brings seven years of experience in the automotive industry and five years in retail sales to the position.

Founded in 1932, Advance Auto Parts is the nation's second largest retailer of auto parts and accessories. Headquartered in Roanoke, Va., Advance Auto Parts, Inc. is a publicly traded company. Its common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol "AAP."

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST CLOSE FRIDAY 6-28-02

COMPANY/SYMBOL	LAST PRICE	WEEKLY CHANGE
ALCAN ALUM/AL	37.52	+ 1.85
AT & T/T	10.70	+ 1.00
AUTOZONE INC/AZO	77.30	- 3.86
BELLSOUTH/BLS	31.50	+ .55
BOEING/BA	45.00	+ 2.04
CALGON CARBON/CCC	8.45	+ .50
CHEVRON /CVX	88.50	+ .85
COCA COLA/KO	56.00	no change
CSX CORP/CSX	34.81	+ .70
DUPONT/DD	44.40	+ 1.49
GENERAL-ELEC/GE	29.05	+ .10
GOODYEAR TIRE/GT	18.71	- .40
HANCOCK HOLDING CO/HBHC	67.38	+ 3.20
INTL BUSINESS MACHINE/IBM	72.00	+ 3.25
INTL PAPER CO/IP	43.58	+ .58
K MART CORP/KM	1.03	+ .17
LOCKHEED MARTIN/LMT	69.50	- .86
PARK PLACE ENT/PPE	10.25	+ .01
PEN NATL GAMING/PENN	18.15	+ 1.89 for 1 split
PEOPLES FINANCIAL /PFBX	14.10	no change
MCDONALDS CORP/MCD	28.45	- .59
MIRANT/ MIR	7.30	- 1.40
REGIONS FINANCIAL/RF	35.15	+ .15
ROCKWELL INTL CORP/ROK	19.85	- .70
SOUTHERN COMPANY/SO	27.40	+ .16
UNION PLANTERS/UPC	32.37	no change
WAL MART STORES/WMT	55.01	+ .03
WELLMAN INC/WLM	16.75	+ .55
WHITNEY HOLDING/WTNY	30.74	- 3.87

Submitted by Craig Foster, Edward Jones Co.

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Obituaries

LOUIS AMPOLSK
PAULINE EVANS
JERRY EVERIDGE
DAN F. JONES
PATRICIA LEE
HELEN REHM
ELSIE WELCH

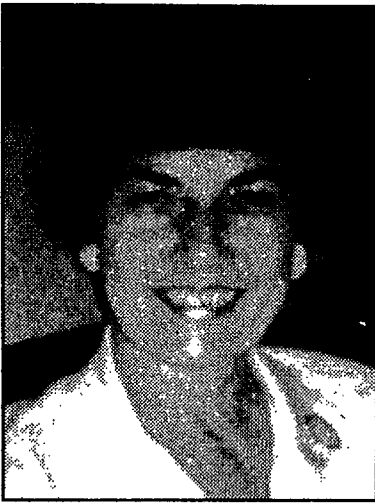
LOUIS AMPOLSK
Louis B. Ampolsk, 79, of Waveland, died Wednesday, June 26, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Ampolsk was a native of New Orleans and a resident of Waveland. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and a member of the Knights of Columbus Post 1522, Bay St. Louis.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Maurice W. and Ethel Wickert Ampolsk. Survivors include his wife, Callie Langman Ampolsk of Waveland; and a daughter, Linda Pasek of Falls Church, Va.

Funeral services will be conducted at a later date. Interment will be in the National Memorial Park Cemetery, Fairfax, Va.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis handled local arrangements.



PAULINE EVANS

Pauline La Verne Alley Evans, 80, of Diamondhead, died Wednesday, June 26, 2002, in Diamondhead.

Mrs. Evans was born in Houston, Texas July 7, 1921. Her parents were Pauline Cooper Alley and Amos Delrey Alley of San Antonio, Texas.

Mrs. Evans and her husband lived in Diamondhead for the past 23 years. They were both active members of the community. She was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Beauvoir Chapter.

Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Captain Jack L. Evans, U.S. Navy (retired) of Diamondhead; a son, Jack E. Evans and wife Carol Jean of Jefferson City, Mo.;

a daughter, Paula E. Young and husband Eddie of St. Charles, Mo.; a granddaughter, Jessica G. Smith of St. Louis, Mo.; a brother, Amos D. Alley and wife Lynlee of Houston; and her adopted daughter, Dedra Story of Pass Christian.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday in St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Diamondhead. Graveside services will be conducted Monday at Mission of the Hills in San Antonio.

The family prefers memorials to Quality Hospice of the Gulf Coast, 1999 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530, Suite One.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis was in charge of local arrangements.

JERRY EVERIDGE

Jerry Sylvester Everidge, 51, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, June 19, 2002, in New Orleans.

Mr. Everidge was born in New Orleans and had been a resident of Bay St. Louis for the past 22 years. He had attended Lawless Junior High School and was a graduate of Nicholson High School. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and Desert Storm, serving in the U.S. Army and retiring after 20 years of service with the rank of Sgt. Major. He was a martial arts instructor and had been employed as a police officer for the Veterans Administration in Biloxi. He held many awards and achievements with the V.A., the U.S. Army, the Louisiana State Police and was president of the AFGE Union, American Federation Government.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Expose Everidge of Bay St. Louis; four sons, Jerry Everidge Jr., Sharonn Everidge, Adrian Everidge and Williams Richardson; three daughters, Monika Everidge, Sparkle Parker and Paula Richardson; six brothers, Edward Everidge, Ernest Everidge, Alvin Everidge and Ronnie Everidge, Harold Taylor and Vernon Taylor; four sisters, Gail Everidge, Joycelyn E. Harris, Shelia T. Warren and Lurlin Everidge; and eight grandchildren.

Services were conducted Saturday at Cooper-Glapion Funeral Home in New Orleans. Burial was in Resthaven Memorial Park in New Orleans.

Memorial Park in New Orleans.

PATRICIA LEE

Patricia Ann Lee, 42, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, June 26, 2002, in Slidell.

Mrs. Lee was a native and lifelong resident of Bay St. Louis and was employed by Exxon-Mobile for seven years. She was of the Pentecostal faith.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Bobby Asher.

Survivors include a son, Kenneth Wayne Lee; a daughter, Lavonna Marie Lee, her parents, Gloria and Louis Asher; brothers David Asher and Douglas Asher, all of Bay St. Louis; three nephews and a niece.

Visitation was Saturday evening at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis. A prayer service will be conducted today, June 30, at 2 p.m. at the funeral home followed by interment in Bayou LaCroix Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

DAN F. JONES

Dan F. Jones, 66, of Gulfport, died Thursday, June 27, 2002, in Gulfport.

Mr. Jones was born in Mendenhall and was a resident of Gulfport. He was retired as a longshoreman of the Gulfport Pier and was a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Callie Jones of Gulfport; four sons, Harold Jones of Japan, Kent Jones of Pass Christian, Gary Jones and Cedric Jones; four daughters, Barbara Hampton, Loretta Hines, Cathy Morgan and Kesha Young, all of Gulfport; a brother, Howard Jones of Mendenhall; a sister, Myrtis Caples of Berkeley, Calif.; 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted Saturday at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Gulfport. Burial was in Monroe Memorial Park Cemetery in Gulfport, directed by Hartwell's Christian Mortuary in Gulfport.

HELEN REHM

Helen Rehm, 83, of Waveland, died Thursday, June 27, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Rehm was a homemaker and member of Waveland United Methodist Church and was with the Selma George Circle. She was a resident of Waveland

for the past five years, since moving from Picayune, where she had lived for 17 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Miller R. Rehm; parents James O. Ezell and Helen Larson Ezell; and a brother, James D. Ezell.

Survivors include sons Miller Rehm of Foley, Al. and George (Larry) Rehm of Naples, Fl.; daughters Ann Rehm Poirson of Slidell, Sandra Rehm of Metairie and Merry Rehm Sewell of Oviedo, Fl.; a sister, Peggy Wedemeyer of Waveland; and eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

There will be no visitation. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Waveland United Methodist Church. Burial will be private.

The family prefers memorials to Waveland United Methodist Church, Vacation Lane, Waveland, MS.

Riemann Funeral Home of Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

ELSIE WELCH

Elsie Sandifer Welch, 75, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, June 26, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Sandifer was a native of Washington Parish, La. and a longtime resident of Bay St. Louis. She was employed by the City of Waveland as a pier ranger for 13 years and was a Methodist.

She was preceded in death by her husband, J. L. Welch, Sr.; two children; her parents, Fred and Nellie Blackwell Sandifer; and a sister, June Butler.

Survivors include sons Jack and Freddie Welch, both of Bay St. Louis; daughters Ann Schmidt of Spring Hill, Fla., Bobbie Blanchard of Gretna, Donna Pernicario of Waveland, and Cinda Thigpen of Picayune; brothers D. W. Sandifer of Foxworth, Miss. and Javan Sandifer of Bogalusa, La.; a sister, Helen Collins of Covington; 16 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be today, June 30, 7 p.m. until 12 a.m. at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis. On Monday, July 1, there will be visitation from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Franklinton, La. followed by a prayer service and interment in Morris Cemetery in Franklinton.

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Mississippi Power initiates Project Share

Mississippi Power is initiating Project Share, a program to help the elderly, handicapped, medically disabled and others in need who have difficulty paying their electricity bills.

Starting the first week in June, Mississippi Power's customers will receive information within the bill insert introducing Project Share and explaining how they may voluntarily contribute \$1, \$2 or \$5 per month to a fund to help those in need.

Money donated will be used to provide assistance to customers in Southeast Mississippi.

"We understand that situations or emergencies can arise that make it hard for customers to pay their bills," said Mississippi Power CEO Mike Garrett. "Project Share is a means of providing emergency help for those truly in need."

The Red Cross of Mississippi will administer Project Share and oversee eligibility for assistance based on established guidelines.

"Red Cross reaches each of the communities we serve and has been a partner with us for 18 years," said Garrett. The Red Cross has administered a direct contribution from the company to help those in need with energy bills since 1984.

Project Share is a nationally recognized program that is used to provide assistance to utility customers.

"We are extremely pleased that we are now able to offer our customers the same type of opportunity to help one another," said Garrett.

Customer donations will be added to the contribution already made by the company to help fund the Project

Share effort.

Customers who wish to participate in Project Share may check an amount in the upper right hand corner of their June bill. Customers who pay their bills automatically by bank transfer may participate by calling Mississippi Power's customer service center at 1-800-532-1502. Customers may also change or cancel their contributions at any time by contacting the company.

Once a customer has joined Project Share, their designated amount will be added and noted separately on their Mississippi Power bill every month.

The contribution may be tax deductible depending on an individual's tax situation.

Mississippi Power, a subsidiary of Southern Company, serves more than

192,000 customers in 23 southeastern Mississippi counties.

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Scott Aquarium programs feature predators of the sea

Featured guests for special Saturday programs in July at the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium will be a diverse group of predators — sharks and sea stars.

Sharks will headline the 2-3 p.m. Saturday, July 13, program.

"We will offer a 'feeding frenzy' of knowledge as

guests engage in hands-on activities and up-close encounters with sharks — some of the sea's most misunderstood predators," Scott Aquarium educator Jennifer Hale said.

The 2-3 p.m. July 20 program unveils sea stars as hunters of the sea. The July 13 and 20 programs are free with membership or paid

admission. The Scott Aquarium is part of the USM College of Marine Sciences.

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BY JOSE

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The Sea Coast Echo

SPORTS

Thundercats thump Fire Dogs 50-34

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

It was a tale of two halves on Friday in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum as the Mississippi Fire Dogs were thumped by the Knoxville Thundercats 50-34. The first half displayed inspiring defense by Mississippi; however, the second half was riddled with fundamental mistakes for the Fire Dogs. The loss dropped Mississippi to 3-10 overall with a 2-1 division record while Knoxville improved to 9-4 overall with a 3-3 division record.

With a win on Saturday, July 6, over the Louisiana Rangers the Fire Dogs can still reach the playoffs. Mississippi offensive coordinator Stu Rayburn stated, "You can't lay the ball on the turf in this league and expect to win. Turnovers really hurt tonight especially when we were inside their 10-yardline."

The Fire Dogs started off hot with a Tim Taylor interception on Knoxville's first possession. The pick led to a Brant Hanna 27-yard field goal with 9:22 left in the first quarter.

Brandon Walker responded for Knoxville

with a three-yard run on the fifth play of the drive. The two-point conversion missed leaving the score 6-3.

Mississippi took the lead 10-6 with a three-yard touchdown pass from Kelvin Simmons to Terrance Blackwell with 4:50 remaining in the opening quarter.

Walker answered again for the Thundercats with a one-yard run to give the lead back to Knoxville 14-10. Andre Reed blocked a Knoxville field goal attempt which led to a touchdown when Montra Edwards recovered the loose ball in the endzone. The defensive score gave Mississippi a 16-14 lead.

However, it wasn't long before Knoxville was rolling down the field again. Akili Roberson connected with Bo McCrary for a 13-yard touchdown with 6:20 left in the first half. Walker added a two-point conversion and the Thundercats held a 22-16 lead.

Buster Browne tied the score at 22-22 with his one-yard run with 4:16 left in the opening half. Reed added his second sack for the Mississippi defense in

the game when he pulled down Roberson at the Knoxville one-yardline. Mississippi had six chances from the one-yardline but was unable to punch it in.

The second half told a different tale for Mississippi. Hanna kicked a 24-yard field goal to open the second half and give Mississippi a 25-22 lead. It was downhill from there.

Walker scored on a 20-yard run for Knoxville and added the two-point conversion to give the Thundercats a 30-25 lead with 9:47 left to play in the third quarter.

Hanna added a 31-yard field goal for the Fire Dogs with 5:19 left in the third which made the score 30-28. Roberson connected with Darnell Harrison on a four-yard scoring pass with 1:38 left in the third for a 36-28 lead.

Mississippi and Knoxville turned the ball over on their next possessions. The Fire Dogs then fumbled on their own two yardline and Knoxville recovered. Roberson called his own number from one yard out for the score with 7:50 left in the game. Walker added the two-point conversion for the

Thundercats who now led 44-28.

Fire Dogs scatback James Matthews had an electrifying 20-yard run down to the Thundercat eight yardline. Mississippi ended up turning the ball over on downs. When Mississippi got the ball back, they went back to Matthews. He scored from six yards out with 1:10 left in the game with the score 44-34.

Mississippi tried an onside kick which was recovered and returned for a touchdown by Knoxville's Broderick Simpson. The return made the final score of 50-34.

Fire Dogs head coach Irvin Favre commented, "Fundamental mistakes killed us tonight. We had our chances to put the ball in the endzone but the breakdowns hurt us."

Mississippi will play their regular season finale in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum on Saturday, July 6 against the Louisiana Rangers. If the Fire Dogs win, they will clinch a spot in the playoffs. Kickoff is set for 7pm.

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Pearl River opens 2002 football season at Northeast

THE SEA COAST ECHO

New Pearl River Community College head coach Tim Hatten will eye his inaugural football game with the Wildcats Thursday, Sept. 5, against Northeast Mississippi in Booneville.

The season opener marks the first of five straight Thursday-night playing dates for PRCC. The Wildcats' home and South Division opener is set for Thursday, Sept. 19 against East Central, then non-division rival Itawamba visits Dobie Holden Stadium Thursday, Oct. 3. Homecoming is set for Saturday, Oct. 12, against league rival Southwest. PRCC closes out the regular season on Thursday, Oct. 31 Halloween night against division foe Copiah-Lincoln.

Other road games include a match up with North Division power Northwest in Senatobia Thursday, Sept. 12; while division rival Hinds hosts Thursday, Sept. 26, in Raymond. Defending state champion Jones plays host in its Homecoming with a division battle Saturday, Oct. 19, in Ellisville; while division rival Mississippi Gulf Coast hosts Saturday, Oct. 26, for its Homecoming in Perkinston.

Hatten, a Sumrall native and former Wildcat wide receiver the 1983 and 1984 seasons, was hired to replace Tucker Peavey in early June after Peavey resigned the position after only five months to accept the head football and athletic director's position his alma mater Brookhaven High School. Hatten was at Class 5A Haines City High School in Haines City, Fla., for the past 14 years, including the last nine as head coach. Peavey replaced Scott Maxfield, who resigned at mid term last December to accept the head job at Blinn College in Brenham, Tex., after guiding the Wildcats to a 7-2 record, their first winning season since 1995.

Maxfield was the engineer behind the most prolific Wildcat offense in history last season with his touted "air raid" offense. His 2001 team led the nation in total

offense and in passing offense, and produced a first-team All-American in quarterback Charlie Reeve, who led the nation in pass-

ing. Maxfield replaced seven-year head coach Keith Daniels, who died of a brain hemorrhage in early October of 2000.

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Youth of the Year



Krystal Madden of Pass Christian, right, was named the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast "Youth of the Year" for 2001-2002. She then competed at the state level and was chosen Mississippi "Youth of the Year" and move on to compete at the Regional Level. In Atlanta since Thursday, June 27, out of 4 semi-finalists, Krystal was named the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Southeast Region "Youth of the Year." The Southeast Region is comprised of 11 states. She will now move on to compete with 4 other youths from across the nation for the title of Boys & Girls Clubs of America National "Youth of the Year."

Coast teachers write in New Orleans marathon project

Seventeen Coast teachers drew upon their inspirational surroundings this week to write about what they saw and felt in the "Big Easy."

The teachers traveled to New Orleans Thursday for the second annual New Orleans Writing Marathon, a professional development writing exercise offered through the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast's Live Oak Writing Project.

The Live Oak Writing Project at USMGC is one of 167 sites of the National Writing Project, which is a professional development network for teachers that works to improve student writing by improving the teaching of writing in the nation's schools.

Teachers from Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties, participants in the Live Oak Writing Project's Summer Institute, were given the opportunity to learn a new way of writing instruction.

"To be placed in the atmosphere of New Orleans and be asked to write about what we felt in each location, was truly an inspiring experience," said Nicol Woodbury, an eighth-grade teacher at Ocean Springs Middle School. "I think it would be a great experience for our students to participate in an exercise such as this."

The teachers were split into small groups of three or four. They were given instructions to go to places within New Orleans such as Jackson Square, the Mississippi River, restaurants, coffeehouses, parks, streetcars and churches. At each location they were to sit for 10 minutes and, with no interruptions, write as much as they could about their surroundings.

Then they were to share



CRESCENT CITY PROSE - Diane McCarty, a music teacher at Second Street Elementary School in Bay St. Louis, sits on the banks of the Mississippi River in New Orleans and writes what she feels from the inspiration of her surroundings. McCarty was one of 17 Coast teachers to participate in the second annual New Orleans Writing Marathon June 27, offered through the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast's Live Oak Writing Project. (University Relations photo)

their writing with the group. The process continued for each location.

"The writing marathon is a fun way for writers to draw inspiration from and develop a deeper understanding of the craft of writing," said Dr. Elaine White, an assistant professor of English at USMGC and director of the Live Oak Writing Project.

The purpose behind the writing marathon and the summer institute is to give teachers a unique learning experience that they will take back (to the classroom) and share with their students, as well as educate fellow teachers about the writing marathon method, she said.

"Some of the teachers in our Summer Institute weren't comfortable with their writing before they came to us," said White. "But now those same teachers have come out of their shell and have proudly shared their thoughts."

"This experience was a

life-changing experience, because everyone has a story to tell, which we certainly learned in New Orleans," said Eileen Olewski, a seventh-grade English teacher at West Wortham Middle School of the Harrison County School District. "I think this positive energy from New Orleans will be transferred to our classrooms."

For more information on the Live Oak Writing Project, contact White at (228) 214-3288.

Winn-Dixie discount cards

THE SEA COAST ECHO

Winn-Dixie shoppers in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida's Panhandle, parts of Georgia and parts of Tennessee can now register for the Customer Reward Card, a new program that will provide ongoing benefits that include merchandise discounts and other special incentives.

The Customer Reward Card is part of a major initiative focused on superior customer relationship marketing to reinforce the company's new Real Deal brand positioning.

After a brief in-store registration process, the customer is issued an easy to use Customer Reward Card and two convenient key ring tags.

They are immediately activated and available for the shopper to begin receiving discounts upon check-out. A quick swipe of the Customer Reward Card will instantly apply current discounts to items purchased.

Recurring use of the card during special promotional periods will result in the accumulation of points that will provide access to additional rewards for the shopper upon completion of specified program milestones.

Those point totals are updated, conveniently tallied and printed out on the customer's receipt after each transaction using the card.

Cardholders also have access to program information and support online at www.wdreward.com or by calling toll free 1-866-WDREWARD (937-3927).

Winn-Dixie will observe strict privacy policies to protect everyone enrolled in the Customer Reward Card program. Absolutely no external distribution or sales of individual customer information will ever take place.

The program's intent is to provide the company with aggregate sales trend information rather than specific individual data.

The first special promo-

tion will take place from June 27 to July 16, offering shoppers an opportunity to accrue points in conjunction with total pre-tax dollars spent each visit - each \$1 spent will be equivalent to one point earned.

The initial reward offer for registered cardholders will be a \$10 Winn-Dixie gift card for an accumulation of 200 points, a \$15 card for 300 points and a \$20 card for 400 points. Customers can redeem their points for gift cards for one week beginning July 17.

Through Upromise, Winn-Dixie customers also can use their Customer Reward Cards to earn money for college when they purchase hundreds of items from America's leading brands in Winn-Dixie stores.

To participate, cardhold-

ers simply register their Customer Reward Cards at www.upromise.com, and their college account will automatically be credited when they shop.

In addition to offering customers discounts, the new card program also will allow Winn-Dixie to monitor and analyze purchasing trends for each local store.

This data will be useful in determining appropriate product offerings to certain regions, cities or even individual stores.

In addition to ongoing store discounts, other benefits of the Customer Reward Card will include automatic sweepstakes entries, notification of special events, participation in specialty merchandise clubs and discounts on services provided by select marketing partners.

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pg 1B

The Isles of the Beholder

The Mississippi Sound and the Barrier Islands

Views From a Front Porch

by Paul Estronza La Violette
laviolette@mail.datsync.com

There are five islands in the 70-mile barrier chain. From east to west these are

Dauphin Island, Petit Bois Island, Horn Island, Ship Island, and Cat Island.

These islands are sand bodies with interior dunes that reach 20 to almost 50 feet in height. They are remnants of a barrier chain of islands more than 3,000 years old and have been worked and reworked by storms many times...

"I see two people in the one boat," yelled Stella over the noise of the plane's engine. "They're both fishing."

As I wrote the amount of people down, the pilot climbed back up to our one thousand-foot cruising altitude and headed the small plane eastward along the coast of Cat Island.

In moments, we spotted some more pleasure craft in the water and, making a tight banking turn, we again dropped down for a closer look.

This time the boats were on my side of the aircraft

and I had to squirm about in my seat, pushing against the pull of the turning aircraft, to count the people who were fishing from the several boats.

We were temporarily taking part in a bi-weekly aerial survey around the barrier islands, the loose line of islands along the southern side of the Mississippi Sound.

These unpopulated, relatively untouched islands act as both a natural playground for us Coastians to enjoy and as a physical barrier that protects our coastal communities from the sometimes-violent Gulf storms.

It was the playground aspect of the island chain that was paying for the aircraft and allowing Stella and me to be out here.

We were taking part in a state-sponsored count of people engaged in sport fishing from and about the islands. There were other counters simultaneously taking part in the survey with us.

These were in boats and on the local docks checking to see what kind of fish



Ship Island's Fort Massachusetts is steeped in history. Construction began on the fort just prior to the Civil War. During the war, Union forces took control of the island, completed the fort, and then used it as a prison for captured Confederate soldiers. Black Union soldiers guarded the Rebels.

were being caught, how many and where.

The survey was part of a two-year research project being conducted by Mississippi State University Research Center for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Although I am not an ardent fisherman, Stella is. I knew she was staring

enviously at the people we were counting in the boats.

We on the coast are lucky to have this broad expanse of water and islands available for this pastime, especially so easily assessable from our homes. I say "pastime," but I know Stella's attitude toward fishing, and I suppose a stronger word might be appropriate.

That others share her enthusiasm is evidenced by the numerous boats parked in driveways and backyards along the streets and back roads of all of our local coastal communities.

Each of these appears ready at short notice to "go get us some fish." From our plane it appeared that many of these boats were out there today.

From the front porch of my house on a clear day I can see one of the barrier islands, Cat Island, the island we were flying over at that moment.

However, the view of Cat Island from our aircraft height was markedly different from the flat, distant view from my porch. As the plane banked to continue its run to the east, I could see the entire length and breadth of the island, its

interior dunes and small ponds. It was a splendid view.

A strong haze was present and I couldn't see Ship Island, the next island in the chain. However, below us we could see in clear details, the long linear rows of trees along the dunes and the equally long black, quiet ponds in the interior that ran parallel to the dunes.

Along the shore of the island I could see beneath the surface of the water, the whirls and convoluted contours of the shallow bottom. Basking in these shallows toward the island's northern tip were several porpoises.

I pointed these out to Stella, and the pilot hearing me obligingly dropped down to allow us a closer look. They appeared to be Bluenoses, and the leisurely fluid movement of their bodies against the curved yellow, light tan lines of the shallow bottom produced a strong study in contrasts.

We circled them for a few moments watching them and then proceeded to the next island to continue our fishing census.

Although it was a pleasant way to spend a morn-

ing, my real reason for volunteering for the flight was to view the other aspect of the barrier islands, that is, their ability to protect the southern coast of Mississippi from the ravages of Gulf storms.

In this instance, I was particularly interested in looking at the damage caused by a storm that had occurred during the winter.

Our flight took place in June of 1998. Earlier, in February, we had had one of the worst winter storms to hit the area in a number of years.

I had been hearing that the shores of several of the barrier islands had been altered by the storm. Now, almost five months later, as we continued our flight over Ship and Horn Island, I was seeing those changes.

I was surprised just how extensive the changes were. The eastern end and Gulf side of each of the islands showed the most changes to the shoreline.

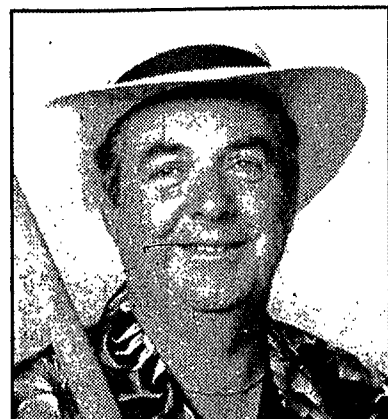
Here large amounts of the beach and interior ground had been washed away. Even after months since the storm, I could see stands of slash pines and

ISLANDS--PAGE 2B



Part of the recent beach renourishment project at Ship Island.

Bring back old-fashioned cosmos in modern garden



SOUTHERN GARDENING
BY NORMAN WINTER
MSU Horticulturist
Central Mississippi
Research & Extension
Center

An old-fashioned plant at the New Orleans Botanical Garden recently just blew me away with its beauty. It was an old cosmos variety called Sensation. Cosmos are native to Mexico and related to coreopsis and rudbeckias.

Gardeners need to take a stand and bring back several cosmos varieties. If you are thinking of the orange cosmos, you need to think again because I am predominantly referring to the Cosmos bipinnatus. These have daisy-like flowers that are 2 to 4 inches wide in shades of burgundy, pink, lilac and white with orange centers. They are borne on

stems of airy fern-like foliage for weeks on end during the growing season.

These cosmos are easy to grow from transplants and seed. In fact, they are so easy to grow from seed, you should sow succession plantings to have blooms the entire growing season. They are a superior flower for cutting and displaying in a vase.

You still may find them at garden centers as transplants, but check the seed racks, too. Researchers have grown them in past years for the Fall Flower and Garden Fest in Crystal Springs.

Plant seeds or nursery-

grown transplants in loose, well-drained planting beds. Fertility need not be high. Seeds germinate in five to seven days with flowers, and you are cutting bouquets in eight to 10 weeks. Thin the seedlings or space transplants 12 to 36 inches apart depending on your variety.

Deadheading old flowers keeps those gorgeous blooms coming. Fertility need not be high; in fact, keep nitrogen levels on the low side or plants will produce too much foliage and top growth at the expense of the flowers. The cosmos also



The beautiful, daisy-like flowers and airy fern-like foliage of the cosmos make it an ideal plant for the cottage garden. They are easy to grow from transplants or seeds. Plant now for late summer and fall color.

GARDEN--PAGE 4B

Islands -- Views

Continued from Page 1B

even a few scattered live oaks toppled into the water or uprooted and lying in the island shallows.

I always have to mentally kick myself when I see such scenes. Normally in our everyday life in a suburban area or arboreal parks, fallen trees and damaged limbs are quickly cleared and the place is made neat and clear of clutter. When a limb falls down from one of our trees about our house, I'm on top of it in seconds to get it picked up.

Here in the natural settings, no one does such things and the debris of the storm are there for months till they rot or in the case of the trees such as these in the water, get carried away by the coastal currents.

The debris I was looking at was a normal, actually healthful, process in nature, but it takes a little adjustment in one's thinking to see objectively.

As we flew over the western ends of the islands just the opposite of these scenes was evident. Here, new sand accretion had enlarged broad areas of the beaches and sand extensions projected out into the passes and north away from the Gulf into the Sound.

It appeared that, although the eastern ends and southern sides of the islands had undergone severe erosion by the storm, the western ends had been extended.

*** We have a tendency of thinking that the things we see around us in nature are permanent, that they won't change; or if they do change, the change will be gradual.

This is really not true. The forms of the land we see are not permanent; they do change and those changes can often be quite dramatic and sudden.

When I went to school, the prevailing thoughts were that grand changes in the earth's landscape took time. My geomorphology courses preached the idea that the earth's landscape evolved gradually, with many of the landforms changes taking centuries to occur.

Evidences that this was not necessarily true were all about us, but the thinking of the times was blinded by this faulted central theorem.

Fortunately, these views have since swung the other way and the belief now is that, while gradual changes do occur, catastrophic changes of both small and grand scale are equally responsible for the shape of the land.

In the case of the barrier islands, I was seeing that both slow and catastrophic changes play strong roles in forming their size and shape.

*** There are five islands in the 70-mile linear barrier chain. From east to west, these are: Dauphin Island, Petit Bois Island, Horn Island, Ship Island, and Cat Island.

These islands are sand bodies with interior dunes that reach 20 to almost 50 feet in height. They are remnants of a barrier chain of islands more than 3,000 years old and have been formed and reformed many times in that period.

The mechanism for much of these reformation has been both storms and a general westward setting current. The storms acting viciously to make large obvious changes, leaving scars that remain for long periods afterward and the almost continuous action of the westward setting littoral currents, day after day picking up the sand grain by grain and moving it from the east to the west. The source area of the moving sand lay to the east toward what is now, Florida.

About 1,500 years ago, when the Mississippi River delta moved to where it is today, the supply of replacement sand to the islands was drastically decreased



A beachside view of Cat Island.

and the islands changed in size and shape.

Cat Island, the island I can see from my house and the first we flew over that day is the oddest shaped of the island chain. It looks like a well-gnawed T-bone, a partial result of present day processes and, since it is protected by the Mississippi River Delta, a relic of its shape from the earlier period.

The other barrier islands, however, have been completely modified to the forms we see today. At this time, the islands appear to be somewhat stabilized to their present size, nourished by sand from sources to their east. Although some changes have taken place in the last two or three centuries, these have been relatively minor.

If the Mississippi Sound did not lie behind the islands, the islands would probably form one long unbroken sand barrier. But it is there and any excess water accumulating in it exerts a pressure to get out past the islands and empty into the Gulf. The passes between the islands form the means to relieve such pressures.

There are a number of sources of such excess water: river runoff, storm surges and tidal action. The most prominent of these is the tides.

Normally, you would not think of the Mississippi Sound as a major tidal body since its diurnal tidal range in height is less than two feet.

However, the Sound has an area of approximately 1,850 square miles. Even at just a foot or two, this is a lot of water and a large volume of water daily moves through the island passes.

Depending upon the phase of the lunar tide, the tidal currents generated by this volume of water result in strong currents (more than two knots) moving in the channels cut in the passes.

The pressure of the winds can cause an increase or hinder the tidal flow, depending on the wind direction and strength. In fact, meteorological events, such as the passage of cold fronts or storms can easily double the strength of the tidal currents.

We on the coast are used to seeing the broad tidal flats along the coast formed by the winds of a cold front pushing the water far out from shore. At these times the water rushing out through the passes can be quite strong.

As a result of this tidal action, four shallow passes separate the five barrier islands. From east to west, these are: Petit Bois Pass, Horn Island Pass, Dog Keys Pass, and Ship Island Pass. The water depth in the passes is generally less than 15 feet, except in the narrower tidal channels lying within the passes.

In these passes, the strongest periods of tidal currents have cut deeper channels and each pass has one or two such tidal channels.

Presently, the maximum depths in these channels range from 46 feet in Horn Island Pass to 23 feet in Petit Bois Island Pass. Like a well balanced machine, the tidal currents keep these channels clean and clear, in perfect need for their flow requirements.

In fact it appears that the four passes are optimally situated and sized just enough to allow the present

amounts of excess water to leave the Sound.

When the surges from hurricanes exceed the normal amount of water, new passes are often cut in the islands. However, when conditions have returned to normal in the post-hurricane period, these new cuts gradually fill in.

The most recent cut formed during Hurricane Camille in 1969, the one splitting Ship Island in two, is very shallow and no tidal channel has been formed. If the present trend of pass formation continues, this cut will probably be gradually filled and the two parts of the island merged in the next decade or so.

*** Now, for the interesting part.

These tidal passes and their deeper incised channels, along with the barrier islands themselves, are migrating westward due to littoral drift processes exacerbated by the occasional storm.

What we saw from the plane that day were prime examples of that westward movement and strong evidence of the major forces creating that westward movement.

It would appear from what we were witnessing, that the island's movements take place during both short periods of rapid change and by less dramatic long periods of recovery and sand movement.

The results of both of these abrupt and long term actions were the westward movements of the passes and islands are evidenced by the constant need to dredge the ship channels and the near loss of Fort Massachusetts.

Fort Massachusetts at the time of construction just prior to the Civil War was located equidistant between the Gulf and Sound shorelines and about 1,000 feet from the western tip of Ship Island.

It is now approximately one mile from the western tip and is on the island's northern shore. If not for the efforts of the National Park Service in constructing a protective sand berm, the Fort would be now be a brick island sitting awash in the Mississippi Sound.

*** Several weeks after that flight over the islands, I walked with Jennie, my dog, on the beach in front of our house. It was right after a heavy rain and the beach was partially flooded by water that was still trying to run off into the Sound.

The storm had built a temporary sand berm on the beach just at the water's edge. The water that had accumulated on the beach had to get by this berm in order to reach the Sound. It did this by forcing cuts in the berm.

As we walked, I watched the water draining through several of these cuts. Looking several hundred yards to my west, I could see that similar cuts had been made with almost mathematical precision in the berm all the way to the wooden culvert draining Lister's Pond.

What I was looking at in miniature scale was a stylized model of the Mississippi Sound, the barrier islands and the tidal passes! When I looked closely at the "passes", sure enough, I saw there were narrow, deep cuts, the scaled-down equivalent of the barrier islands tidal channels.

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Weddings and Engagements



Mr. and Mrs. John Clem

Clem-Wilcox

Rachel June Wilcox and John Ranier Clem were united in marriage June 1, 2002 in an evening ceremony in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pass Christian. Pastor Mike Barbera officiated.

Special songs were by John, James and Ruth Wilcox; trumpeter was Jim Kramer, and pianist was Lori Dollar.

The bride is the daughter of Karl and Sharon Wilcox of Poplarville. Her grandparents include George and June Strathbuckner of Iowa and Mary Wilcox of Clermont Harbor and the late Delmer Wilcox.

The groom's parents are Charles and Evelyn Clem of Hot Springs, Ark., and his grandparents are the late Arthur and Geraldine Edwards and the late Bert and Lena Clem.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents.

For the occasion she selected an ivory satin A-line gown with split back accented with hand-beaded trim. She wore a veil and tiara and carried a cascade of bridal white roses, yellow

freesia, pink gerbera daisies, blue baby's breath, caspia, plumoria and a few of her grandmother's gardenias.

Maid of honor was Ruth Wilcox.

Bridesmaids were Heather Lyons, Angela Baird and Marsha Stephen.

Flower girls were Bryn and April Phinney, and ring bearer was Matthew Dorn.

Best man was Daniel Clem, and groomsmen included Tim Barrett, Joseph Erwin and Rick Schwendinger.

Ushers were David Dorn, Daniel Erwin and John and James Wilcox.

A reception followed the ceremony in the fellowship hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Food was served by friends from the church and by Dolly Lundberg.

The altar was decorated with magnolia branches and a cross, and vows were exchanged under a chupah made by the bride's mother.

After a honeymoon trip to San Francisco, Calif., the couple will reside in Tulsa, Okla.

Danner-Gray united in marriage

Josephine Ashley Gray of Diamondhead and Shane Eugene Danner of Hattiesburg were united in marriage June 8, 2002 in an afternoon ceremony in Diamondhead United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Barber of Hattiesburg officiated. Pianist was Gail Carr.

The bride is a daughter of Sandra and Lester Gray of Diamondhead.

The groom's parents are Sandra Williams of Hattiesburg and William Danner II of Ville Platte, La. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

For the occasion she chose a formal gown of white chiffon over Duchess satin. The empire bodice with sweetheart neckline was decorated with crystal beading in a floral pattern.

The softly-flared skirt featured a self-bow at the back waist, and the train extended to chapel length. She wore a headpiece fashioned with pearls and crystal beads with attached fingertip veil of illusion.

Maid of honor was Shana Ockman.



Mr. and Mrs. Shane Danner

Bridesmaids were Alissa Stechman Morales and Natalie Smith.

Flower girl was Kelsey Capehart of Gulfport, cousin of the bride.

Best man was Roger Danner, brother of the groom, and ushers included Eric Gray, brother of the bride, and B. J. Peralta of

Hattiesburg. Groomsmen were Kevin Mitchell and Jeff Cox. A reception followed the ceremony at Diamondhead United Methodist Church. A rehearsal dinner was hosted at Bayou Roux Restaurant in Diamondhead.

The couple will reside in San Angelo, Texas.

McShane to teach watercolor workshop

Florida watercolor artist Mary McShane will teach a three-day watercolor workshop at the Pass Christian Art Association Painting Room, located on Clark Street, July 15, 16 and 17, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

She is an award-winning artist, has a master's degree in art education and taught art in the public school system for over 30 years. She is widely sought to conduct private watercolor workshops.

Her "up close and personal" painting style, giving considerable weight to the elements of color, value, pattern and movement, puts the viewer at eye level with colorfully vibrant florals, mischievous felines and spectacular underwater views of koi.

For further information, contact Dot Copeland at 466-0069.

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Candace Williams and Chad Stokes

Williams-Stokes

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas Smith Jr. of Waveland announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of Candace Renee Williams to Chad James Stokes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark William Hill of Boardman, Ohio.

The bride-elect is a Bay

High School graduate and attended Jefferson Davis Junior College. The prospective groom is a Bay High School graduate and is employed with Blue Water Construction. The wedding will take place July 16 at 3 p.m. in the Davis House on the Beach.

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Garden

Continued from Page 1B

gives a perennial-like performance by reseeding, but the resulting flowers may be different from the parent. In other words, you may plant a dwarf selection and the resulting volunteer seedling look like a taller variety. Water sparingly, but water deeply when you do to train roots to go deep.

Considering the cosmos plants grow from 2 to 4 feet suggests planting to the back of the border. I would suggest using them in a cottage garden setting against a white picket fence. The tallest varieties may need a garden wire to help hold them up or better yet, use salvias like Victoria Blue, Indigo Spires, the large blue anise or Brazilian sage to give the support. The spiky flowers of the salvias will combine perfectly with the more rounded cosmos. Another good companion is the cleome.

Those of you have not yet

ventured into tall plants for the garden will want to go with the Sonata series. This is a Fluoroselect Award Winner and is probably the most popular. These are dwarf 2-foot tall plants in four colors and a mix.

The Psyche series is an old favorite with large 4-inch, semi-double blooms on 4- to 5-foot tall plants. Sensation, the one I saw at the New Orleans Botanical Garden, is an All-America Selections Winner from 1938 and is still impressive in display gardens throughout the South. Let this be a lesson in that when a plant is an award winner, such as an All-America Selections or Mississippi Medallion, you can count on them for years to come.

Seashells, Early Wonder and Versailles also are worthy varieties if you find them in packets or transplants.

Suffering from fibromyalgia? Now there's a support group

Have you been diagnosed with fibromyalgia or do you have symptoms (pain, stiffness, sleeplessness, chronic fatigue) that you suspect are caused by this mysterious disorder?

If so, you may be interested in joining a support

group that is being organized for Hancock County residents.

Although my symptoms are pretty much in remission, I would like to help organize such a group.

Please call me at 467-5563 for more information.

Military Mention

SEAMAN PAYNE-RANSOM

Navy Seaman Andrika F. Payne-Ransom, daughter-in-law of Janet M. Payne of Bay St. Louis, recently reported for duty aboard the amphibious command ship USS Mount Whitney, flagship for the U.S. Second Fleet, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

Payne-Ransom joined the Navy in September 1998.

PVT LENFANT

Marine Corps Pvt. Philip J. Lenfant, son of Phyllis C. and Jerome W. Lenfant of Waveland, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Lenfant successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Lenfant and fellow recruits ended the training phase with The Crucible, a 54-hour team effort, problem solving evolution which culminated with an emotional ceremony in which the recruits were presented the Marine Corps Emblem, and were addressed as "Marines" for the first time since boot camp began.

Lenfant is a 1997 graduate of St. Stanislaus High School in Bay St. Louis.

PVT REDMOND

Army Pvt. Kelvin R.

Redmond was graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received instruction and practice in drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military justice system, physical fitness, basic first aid, and Army values, principles, and traditions.

Redmond is the son of Lonnie Bradley of Bay St. Louis.

He is a 2001 graduate of the Job Corps, Gulfport.

PVT JERDE

Army Pvt. Elizabeth A. Jerde was graduated from basic military training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo.

During training, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Jerde is the daughter of Ruby E. Hinchman of Pass Christian.

PO1 HATTAWAY

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy D. Hattaway, son of Audrey and Ernest R. Hattaway of Pass Christian, is halfway through a six-month deployment to the

Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while assigned to the guided missile cruiser USS Hue City, homeported in Mayport, Fla.

Hattaway is one of more than 10,000 Atlantic Fleet Sailors and Marines aboard the ships of the USS John F. Kennedy Carrier Battle Group and USS Wasp Amphibious Ready Group participating in joint-service, multi-national operations in the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

Hattaway is a 1982 graduate of Lineville High School of Lineville, Miss. and joined the Navy in March 1984.

MSGT MOAK

Air Force Master Sgt. John W. Moak has earned a master's degree in business administration from William Carey College, Gulfport.

While on active duty, military members are encouraged to further their education through off-duty programs. Many educational programs for servicemembers are subsidized through tuition assistance or veterans benefits.

Moak is the superintendent of the First Term Airmen Center at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi.

He is the son of Shirley and A.R. Moak of Pass Christian.

His wife, Vicki, is the

daughter of Billy Ray and Patricia Ladner of Pass Christian.

The master sergeant received associate degrees in 1990 and 1993 from the Community College of the Air Force. In 2000, he earned a bachelor's degree from William Carey College.

PFC DAGENAIS

Army National Guard Pfc. Gregory J. Dagenais was graduated from the AH-64 helicopter armament/electrical systems repair course at Fort Eustis, Newport News, Va.

The student was trained to perform aviation unit, intermediate, and depot maintenance on the electrical and instrument systems and the electrical, electronic, mechanical and pneumatics systems; diagnose and repair malfunctions in AH-64 armament, electrical, instrument, and fire control systems and components; perform operations checks, ammunition loading/unloading, and weapon subsystems configurations.


Dagenais is the son of Mara T. and stepson of Rene F. Trudeau of Bay St. Louis.

The private is a 1990 graduate of Western Senior High School, Las Vegas, Nev.

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Disc Village Bay on Icons of Village popular much for the \$14.95. Tickets Casino calling or at ar tion.

Paul Raiders
Paul Raiders hits Reserv: Like M others. Revere' ality is Raiders more th 63, has ished a and sp his mac back t when having "was a recorde which they h

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Entertainment

Casino Magic BSL plans July 4 bash

Disco, classic rock and roll and fireworks will highlight the four-day bash Casino Magic Bay St. Louis has planned to celebrate the July 4 weekend.

Free fireworks will light up the sky outside Casino Magic Bay St. Louis on July 3 at 9 p.m. Celebrating our country's independence, this display of blazing lights and sounds exploding into the night sky over the bay will start your weekend off with a blast. July 5 will bring Paul Revere & The Raiders to the entertainment complex at 9 p.m. Revere's brand of 60's rock and roll has been delighting audiences for over 40 years and he is showing no signs of slowing down. Tickets for his show are \$9.95, \$14.95 and \$19.95.

Disco returns when The Village People come to the Bay on July 6 at 9 p.m. Icons of the disco era, The Village People remain a popular band still very much in demand. Tickets for their show will be \$14.95, \$19.95, and \$24.95. Tickets are available at Casino Magic Box Office, by calling 1-800-5-MAGIC-5, or at any Ticketmaster location.

Paul Revere & the Raiders

Paul Revere & the Raiders are known for such hits as "Indian Reservation," "Kicks," "Just Like Me," "Hungry," and others. The chemistry of Revere's fun-loving personality is a major force in the Raiders popularity. For more than 40 years Revere, 63, has created a highly polished act built on warmth and spontaneity. He uses his madcap comedy to bring back the pre-Beatle days when being carefree and having fun was where it "was at." The group has recorded 26 albums of which numerous are gold; they have sold nearly 50



Paul Revere & the Raiders



The Village People

million records.

The Raiders were organized in 1958 by leader Paul Revere. Highlights of their career include being the first rock group to be signed with Columbia Records,

appearing on 520 "Where the Action Is," network shows on ABC Television and Paul Revere for two years co-hosting the network television series, "Happening," which featured the Raiders. They have appeared on The Tonight Show, Ed Sullivan, Batman, Jack Benny, Solid Gold and others.

Perhaps most remarkable of all, is that in spite of not having a hit in the last 25 years, Paul and his band of 20 years have managed to maintain an unbelievably successful show.

Many groups have had many hits, but there are very few entertainers that can entertain an audience with such high musical skill, high energy and high level of comedy prompting people to come back time and time again to see what madman Paul and his Raiders will do next. Revere has no plans to stop his rigorous touring schedule. As Paul has said many times, "I started this band almost 40 years ago for the fun of it, and I'm not going to quit till I stop having fun." To quote Tim Woodward of the Idaho Statesman, "The hit records are gone, but he is still at it, and still in

demand."

Village People

Producer/Composer Jacques Morali found Felipe Rose dancing in his Indian costume in a crowd in NY's Greenwich Village. Rose's special visual attraction brought the idea to mind to put together a group of Village icons from various American social groups.

Soon after, Morali saw Victor Willis in Broadway's The Wiz and, portraying the cop, Willis brought along Alex Briley to play a G.I. With partner Henri Belolo, Morali held auditions for 3 more performers as a cowboy, construction worker and biker, and Village People was formed with their first self-titled record released in 1977.

Willis was later replaced by Ray Simpson, and presently Jeff Olson plays the cowboy and Eric Anzalone completes the six as the biker.

Selling more than 65 million recordings (1987 Dance Music Report), Village People are best known for their hits "San Francisco/In Hollywood," "Macho Man," "YMCA," "In the Navy," "Go West" and more.

Madonna and Joan

Rivers are among artists who have appeared as opening acts for Village People in Las Vegas, Madison Square Garden, Japan's Budokan, Sidney's Hordern Pavilion and Hollywood's Greek Theatre. Even Michael Jackson co-starred with Village People in LA's Palladium.

Village People have been on the cover of Rolling Stone Magazine and featured in Guinness Book of Hits, Time, Playboy, Playgirl, GQ, US, People, Paris Match, World Book Encyclopedia, Dick Clark's 25 Years of Rock and Roll and hundreds more.

Television appearances include The Love Boat, Bob Hope Show, 20/20 (twice), American Bandstand, Solid Gold, Soul Train, Midnight Special and dozens more in more than 20 countries. They also starred in a film in 1980 about how the group was formed called "Can't Stop The Music."

The group took a short break from the rigors of touring in 1986, then returned to the stage two years later. They recently celebrated their 20th anniversary and they enter their third decade, they con-

tinue to thrill audiences from 4 to 70 at concerts throughout the world.

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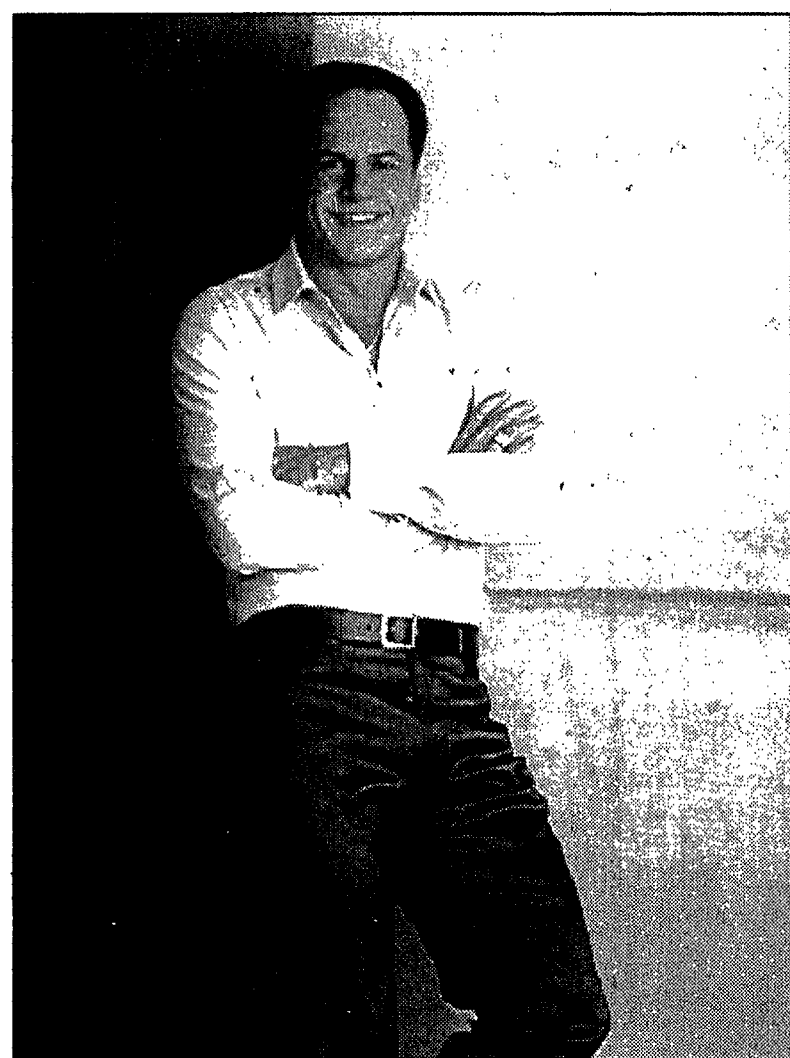
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DANIEL AND THE IDOL BEL



AS PROMISED, HERE IS THE OTHER OLDEST "DETECTIVE" STORY FROM THE APOCRYPHA. CYRUS, THE KING, EACH DAY PROVIDED THE IDOL BEL WITH BUSHELS OF FINE FLOUR, MANY SHEEP, AND FIFTY GALLONS OF WINE. BECAUSE THIS WAS THE GOD CYRUS WORSHIPPED, WHEN THE KING ASKED DANIEL TO WORSHIP THE IDOL, DANIEL KNEW IT WAS HIGH TIME TO EXPOSE THE FAKE GOD AND THE SEVENTY PRIESTS WHO MADE A FINE LIVING AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BEL. CYRUS BELIEVED THAT BEL WAS REALLY A LIVING GOD BECAUSE ALL THE FOOD THAT WAS PROVIDED WAS ALWAYS CONSUMED OVERNIGHT. DANIEL KNEW DARN WELL THAT IT WAS THE PRIESTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO DID ALL THE EATING. BUT HOW TO EXPOSE THEM SO KING CYRUS WOULD KNOW THAT BEL WAS A FAKE GOD? WELL, DANIEL, IN TRUE DETECTIVE STORY STYLE, LAID A TRAP FOR THE PRIESTS AND PROVED CONCLUSIVELY TO KING CYRUS THAT THE IDOL WAS A FAKE AND THAT THE ONLY TRUE, LIVING GOD WAS THE LORD GOD WHOM DANIEL WORSHIPPED! HOW HE ACCOMPLISHED THIS FEAT IS FULLY RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF APOCRYPHA AND IS WELL WORTH READING—IT CERTAINLY ESTABLISHES DANIEL AS A FIRST-GRADE DETECTIVE ALONG WITH THE BEST OF THEM! SO GO TO IT—READ IT AND SEE IF YOU DON'T AGREE!

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There is no day but today

Over a third of Americans believe the end of the world is imminent.

Any day now, they think, Jesus will be coming back upon the clouds of heaven to judge the living and the dead. Of course, extreme turmoil and the violent destruction of much of the world as we know it will precede the Rapture.

"The End is Near," "Are You Ready?" and dozens of similar warnings and slogans grace many venues, nooks and crannies where one would least expect to find them.

After 911 in particular, they are popping up like eager mushrooms around the country. Are you in that number waiting for the end?

Left Behind, the blockbuster book of this summer, heads a list of 10 books which constantly play and drive home the theme of Armageddon and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

With 7,000,000 books sold, the runaway best-seller almost doubled the next most-popular book, *Tribulation Force*.

Although most who wait breathlessly for the end of time have an austere, stoic, forbidding appearance, there seems to be a certain joy and satisfaction in the words, expressions and demeanor of many of the proponents of impending doom and the last breath of the world. They are a cheering squad.

The whole scenario is ratcheted higher by the Internet raptureready.com which sports the Rapture Index, affectionately referred to by its inventor, Todd Strandberg, as the Dow Jones Industrial Average of End Time Activity. Prophecies plus all the negative things around us equals The End.

Unfortunately for the Rapture Index, the 10 books and for all who believe the end of time is close at hand, they are getting off on the wrong foot.

Their main premise, which uses world events, especially wholesale disasters, as surefire signs of the impending end, is categorically denied by Jesus:

"But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. You must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come" (Matthew 24:36).

If it is any consolation to the eager-beaver End-Timers, Paul was sucked into the same state of mind.

By the same token, consolation this may afford is neutralized by the fact that Paul was more than 1950 years early in his prediction of the Parousia, the second coming of Jesus.

And still counting. Listen to his eagerness and enthusiasm as he included himself in the "we" of the rapture. It is obvious that Paul had no doubt about his being among the living at the time of the Rapture.

"Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not pre-

cede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

Just in case you think Paul was not expecting an imminent appearance of Jesus in his own lifetime, try 1 Corinthians 7:29:

"I tell you, brothers, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having wives, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away."

If the End-Timers of today are only one fourth off Paul's 1950-year lapse, they have a powerfully long wait ahead of them. One would think they would have learned a more immediate lesson from the clumsy debacle of the Millennium/Y2K knee-jerk artists who sowed the seeds of fear and anxiety.

The End Time of Y2K, of course, turned out to be simply Y2K. It was a complete hoax, a total bust, and a studied exploitation of people's fears.

Just as in the case of Y2K profiteers, one blessed assurance for the purveyors of End-Time books is that their coffers are full, as we know from multiplying their multi-million book sales by X number of dollars.

So, we see a financial success here, but a bumbling theological and social con job.

To put it most bluntly, our lives should not change whether the dire predictions of the End-Timers are true or not, because the only day we can handle is today, the day at hand.

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery." Tomorrow is far more serious than mystery. It may never come.

The main issue, then, of overriding importance is not whether the end of time will occur very soon or in 400 years.

We have only the main issue of today in our lives, for today is all we have. All other issues are in complete subordination to the precious today God has given us.

So, the prospect of the End Time hovering perilously close is not a terrifying scenario of life, because, first of all, it is totally uncertain as to its exact timing.

Most of all, we can be at peace, comfortable, glad and yet alert, since "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it!"

The "Word" for the Week

Divorce and forgiveness

Dennis J. Prutow • Box 303, Sterling, KS 67579

Little is permanent in our lives. We bypass the idea of family members having lasting ties. The thought of families having deep roots in communities is also foreign to us.

Fleeting relationships, one-night stands, and easy divorce are the norm rather than the exception.

From the perspective of the Bible we must therefore look at two important sides of divorce. First, God's plan is for permanence in all marriages.

"I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel" (Malachi 2:16). God is not pleased with easy divorce laws. God is not pleased with the cavalier implementation of such laws.

God is not pleased with the casual laying aside of marriage vows in favor of some elusive so-called personal freedom.

Second, although God looks

down on divorce, He cautiously allows it. Adultery is a legitimate reason for divorce. Desertion, which cannot be remedied by counsel in the church or helpful legal advice, is also a proper reason for divorce.

Some add the desertion of marriage vows by abusive spouses. Marriages require trust, love and commitment to prosper and flourish.

Divorce always involves us in sin. But God is in the forgiveness business. Some folks think divorce is the unpardonable sin. It's not.

All other sins, including divorce, are forgivable through faith in the sacrifice of Christ as the only adequate payment for those sins.

To hear more on the same topic, call toll free for the "mini-message of the week," 1-800-777-0389 or visit www.w-e-m.org.

"I hate divorce, says the Lord, the God of Israel"

(Malachi 2:16).

By Ed Young

"Who do men say I, the Son of Man am?"

His disciples answered, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, others say Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

Jesus said to them, "but who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus answered and said, "Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in Heaven."

Matthew 16:13-17

Simon Peter did not have the New Testament in front of him to reply as he did - God revealed that insight to him.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, The Alpha and Omega, is He

those things to you?

Who do you say the Son of Man is?

Is He just a historical Jesus, a Jesus who is still hanging on a cross above the altar, a Jesus still in His mother's arms in a manger, or He doesn't really matter one way or another?

Who do you say the Son of Man is?

For 2,000 years this Jesus of Nazareth has brought much controversy to mankind.

For some reason many people have trouble dealing with what Jesus said and stood for.

However, anyone who is given insight of this Jesus - the Son of Man, has comfort and peace within himself.

"Seek and you shall find."

Ask for that God-given insight. You will be eternally grateful.

St. Ann-St. John Church News

Father John Kelly, pastor, 228-467-4746

Mass Schedule:

St. Ann Catholic Church, Lower Bay Road, Saturday Vigil Mass, 5 p.m.

Sunday masses: St. John Catholic Church, Lakeshore Road, mass at 8 a.m.; St. Ann, 10:30 a.m.

Weekday masses (St. Ann): Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Visitors are welcome.

July 3: Sick and shut-ins will be visited.

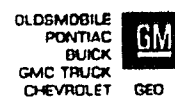
July 4: Independence Day. Be sure to fly your American flag.

July 5: (First Friday of the month). There will be Benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Anyone wishing to have a child baptized is asked to contact the parish office so arrangements can be made.

Those in need of a priest while Father Kelly is out, please call Father Jack Rietti at 467-2616.

Father Kelly and Father Jack wish everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.



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Hancock High School announces 10th grade spring semester awards

Superintendent's List
(All A's for Spring Semester): Matt Crittenden, Britneye Farrell, Deven Fejka, Ashley Gipson, Jennifer Ladner, Thomas Laudisi, Haley Lee

Principal's List (A's and B's for Spring Semester): Kelli Anthony, Amanda Arcement, James Ball, George Blair, Danielle Bordages, Alijah Brown, Trevin Burge, Jennifer Canaski, Jennifer Chris, Rachel Courtney, Courtney Craft, Jennifer Crapps, Jennifer Crawford, Lauren Dauzat, Summer Dawsey

Melinda Dittman, Diana Donovan, Jason Ellis, Amber Emel, James English, Britneye Farrell, Jessica Fricke, Dwayne Garcia, Ashley Garfield, Samantha Gregory, Misty Hariel, Kaley Hennepsey, Joshua Juneau, Michael Chase Kuhn, Justin Lacoste, Amanda

Ladner, Joshua Blaine Ladner, Tung Le, Lindsey Lind, Victoria Link, Joshua Maidenbaum

Michelle Mathews, Thomas McGill, Seth McIntosh, Victoria Monde, Maegan Moran, Ashley Necaise, Corey Necaise, Lauren Necaise, Brittany Oxner, Marae Patton, Amber Pavolini

Brittany Peterson, Sara Phillips, Maegan Pugh, Neal Rodriguez, John Rogers

Brittany Sellier, Heather Shaw, Stephanie Sones, Adam Spiers, Daniel Spiers, Allen St. Germain, Glenn Stennett Jr., Alyse Stephens, Wanda Thill, Melissa Turner, Pepper Vance, Naomi Vaughn, Ethel Wiklund, Summer Zulli

Perfect Attendance: Amanda Arcement, Bramdi Barber, George Blair, Dallas Blakeney, Charles Bolden, Alijah Brown, Kyle Brown, Trevin Burge, Chris Campanali, Arthur Clough, Jason Cospelich, Jennifer Crapps, Lyndsie Cwiklik, Summer Dawsey, Diana Donovan, Jason Ellis,

Joseph Everett, Dwayne Garcia, Ashley Gipson, Donald Hains, Joshua Juneau, Andrew Ladner, Daniel Ladner, Kayla Ladner, Thomas Laudisi, Louis Lester Jr.

Ashley Lightell, Joshua Maidenbaum, Conrad Mauffray, Seth McIntosh, Lori Moran, Lauren Necaise, Jake Nelson, Khue Nguyen, Brice Pagan, Jenna Parker

Timothy Pearson, Ashley Peters, Brittany Peterson, Matthew Pinter, Maegan Pugh, Heather Shaw, Aliana Smith, Misty Soignier, Adam Spiers, Justin Still

Joanna Tebo, Elizabeth Trosclair, Blake Vanaman, Lacey Wahl, Christopher White, Ethel Wiklund

Other Awards: English I Academic: Arthur Clough

English II Accelerated Academic: Jennifer Chris, Lindsey Hardy, Naomi Vaughn

English II Accelerated Achievement: Curtis Brumfield, Ashley Gipson

Occupational English II Academic: Nicholas Taylor

Occupational English II Achievement: Chris Peterson

Language Arts Achievement: Matthew Pinter

Biology I Academic: Benjamin Warren

Biology I Achievement: Robert Harris

Algebra II Academic: Alijah Brown, Benjamin Warren

Transitional Algebra Academic: Charles Carollo Jr.

Transitional Algebra Achievement: Leah McGuire

Art II Academic: Jason Cospelich

Art II Achievement: Conrad Mauffray

Sociology Academic: Sociology Achievement: Adam Schneider

World History Academic: Matt Crittenden, Jennifer Ladner, Mary Mayzak, Lacey Wahl

World History Achievement: Matthew Daigre, Damian Dorsey, Mary McColley, Natalie Stanley

Spanish I Academic: Thomas Laudisi

Chemistry I Academic: Lacey Wahl

Chemistry Achievement: Keshia Saucier

Child Care I Academic: Summer Dawsey

Child Care Achievement: Chelsea Necaise

JROTC III Academic: Jennifer Sawin

JROTC III Achievement: Brandy LeBlanc

JROTC IV Academic: Ashley Gipson

JROTC IV Achievement: Tia Cuevas

Lodging and Hospitality Achievement: Joseph Everett

Humanities Academic: Britneye Farrell

Marine Science Achievement: Gerald Adams

Driver's Education Academic: Charles Carollo Jr.

Safety Education Academic: Thomas Laudisi

Welding II Academic: Shaun Stroud

Welding II Achievement: Beau Bobbitt

Career Prep II Academic: Michael Hughes

Career Prep II Achievement: Brandon Lomonaco

Drafting I Achievement: Erick Blackwell

Building Trades I Academic: Johnathan Hoda

Building Trades I Achievement: Pepper Vance

Auto Mechanics I Academic: Lakrisha Dedaux

Auto Mechanics I Achievement: Jaclyn Behre

Culinary Arts I Academic: Maegan Pugh

Culinary Arts I Achievement: Michelle Mathews

Mythology Achievement: Erica Skinner

Living Skills Academic: Katie Jones, Jake Nelson, Matthew Pinter

Living Skills Achievement: Angel Saucier, Corinne Spiers

Math Skills Academic: Matthew Pinter

Psychology Achievement: Amanda Arcement

German I Academic: Thomas Laudisi

German II Achievement: Brice Pagan

Geology Achievement: Gerald Adams

Work Processing Academic: Jennifer

Crawford Honors Geometry Academic: Joshua Juneau, Brooke Necaise

Entrepreneurship Academic: Thomas Laudisi

French I Academic: Diana Dofiovàn

French II Achievement: Michael Chase Kuhn

Microbiology Achievement: Raymond Duboss

World Geography Achievement: Arthur Clough

Business Law Achievement: Chase Cronan

Theatre I Academic: Victoria Monde

Civics Academic: Elizabeth Trosclair

Creative Writing Academic: Cherie Taylor

Law Related Academic: Britneye Farrell

Aerospace Academic: Seth McIntosh

Aerospace Achievement: Leah Wilburn

Boeing/Rocketdyne Achievement Award for Math & Science: Jennifer Ladner

Special Congressional Recognition: Anna Davidson, Lakrisha Dedaux, Elizabeth Konrick, Rachel Lee, Maegan Pugh, Keshia Saucier

International Youth Ambassador's Award: Anita Pal

Hugh O'Brien Award: Christopher White

MS School of Math and Science Selection: Danielle Bordages

Now's a good time to seek a student loan

Record low federal student loan interest rates are good news for students finding they need to take out loans in order to finance rising costs of college.

"At ESF, we never advise anyone to borrow money unless they have exhausted all other options. Unfortunately, state budget cuts are forcing colleges to raise tuition and other fees with the burden falling to the students," commented Ken Smith, executive director of ESF, a non-profit foundation dedicated to making college possible.

"The good news is that as of July 1, federal interest rates on student loans issued beginning July 1998 are at an all-time low. The interest rate on Stafford loans for students in school, in deferment, or within the six-month grace period after they leave school is 3.46 percent. The new rate for students repaying Stafford loans is 4.06, which is down from 5.99 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30," he said. Smith added that the new rates also favorably affect parents who choose to take a PLUS Loan. Parents, who must begin repaying these loans within 60 days after final disbursement, can take advantage of a low 4.86 percent interest rate, as of July 1.

"The rates also bode well for those out of school who wish to consolidate their loans. Interest rates are variable on most federal students loans and are adjusted each year. Consolidating your loans

allows you to lock in a low rate for the life of the loan. Borrowers should contact their lender or servicer to explore consolidation options," he said.

Smith emphasized that the rates are even lower for students who choose lenders offering borrower benefits.

"Because we are non-profit, ESF offers the best benefits in the industry for Mississippi students or out-of-state students attending Mississippi schools. ESF pays 1% of the up-front fees due to the federal government on a student's behalf, meaning the student receives a larger Stafford loan check than with other lenders.

Further, at repayment time, ESF will cut the interest rate by a full 2% for having payments automatically deducted from a bank account on both Stafford and PLUS loans. This means a rate of 2.86 percent for parents acquiring PLUS loans this year," Smith explained.

In addition to low-cost loans, ESF provides \$15,000 in scholarships annually and outreach services through ESF CAPP (College Access Planning Program) and Delta Scholars. CAPP offers free resources and counseling to students via two resource centers in Jackson, toll-free at 888.713.3762, at www.esfweb.com and in workshops held in schools and community locations and via ETV Interactive Network.

Stevens receives tennis scholarship

The Mississippi Tennis Association, in partnership with the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University, has awarded 21 summer tennis camp scholarships to junior tennis players from across Mississippi.

Applications were sent to high school coaches, teaching instructors and tennis pros across the state, with more than 40 applications returned to the Mississippi Tennis Association for consideration.

Each applicant showed involvement in United States Tennis Association (USTA) junior programs and provided letters of recommendation from their coach, as well as short biog-

raphy and short narrative by the nominee on why he/she would like to attend a tennis camp.

Scholarships cover room, board and tennis instruction at the week-long summer tennis camps.

Among the junior tennis players awarded a scholarship to Mississippi State University Tennis Camp is Philip Stevens

Pass Christian. For more information on the Mississippi Tennis Association's Summer Tennis Camp Scholarship Program or other programs of the Mississippi Tennis Association, contact the Mississippi Tennis Association, 1-800-349-1683 or visit the web site: www.mstennis.com.



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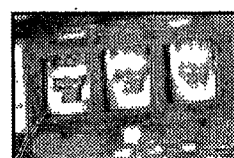
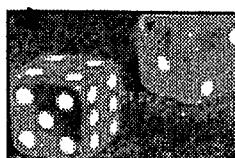
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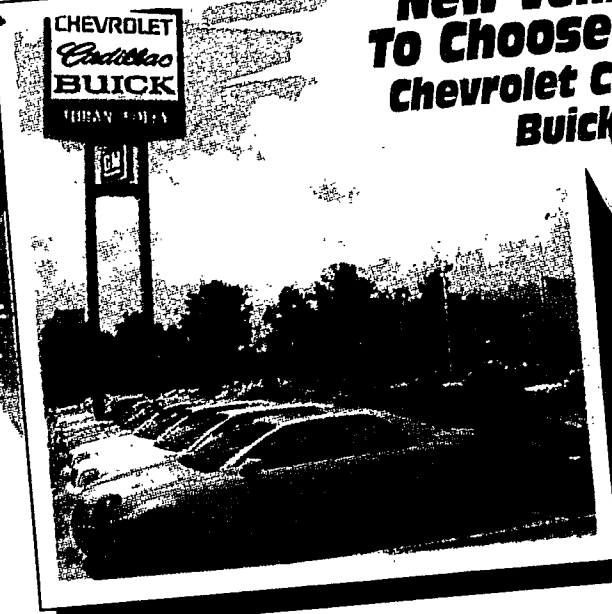
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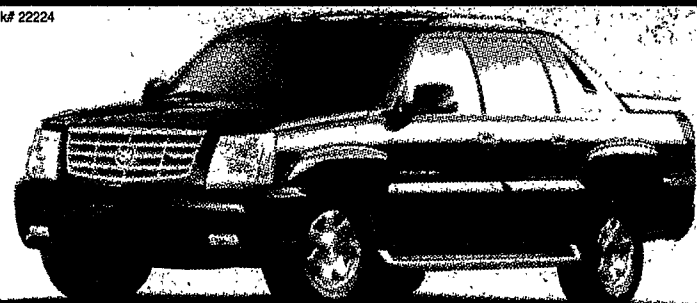


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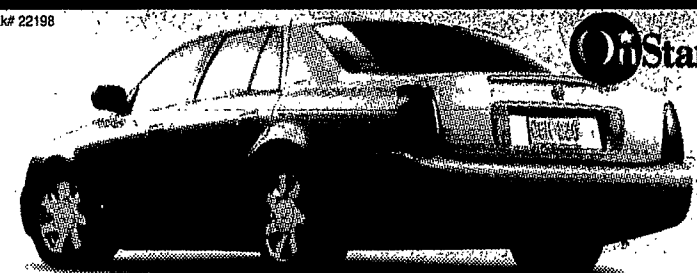


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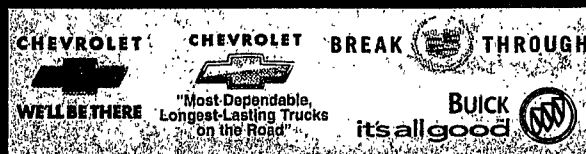
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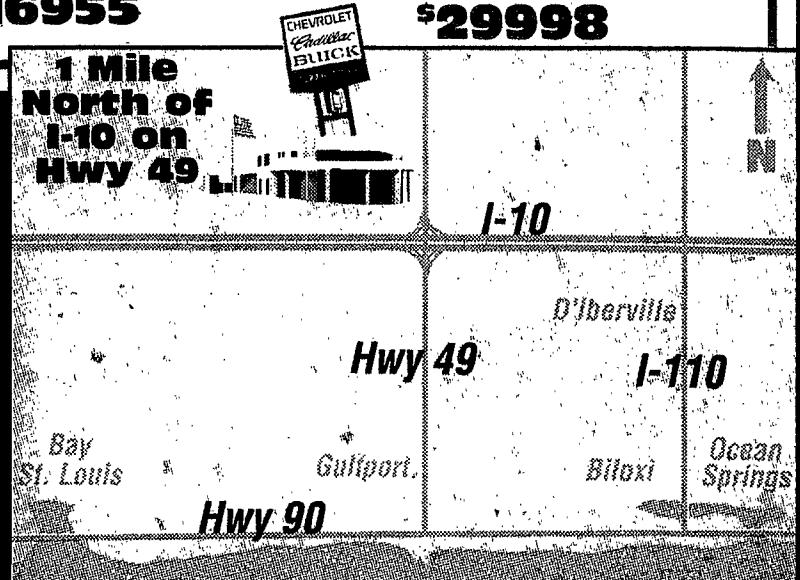


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Hancock *Today*

Hancock: The Incredible Growing County

Area population
expanding by more than
five percent per year.
Page 2

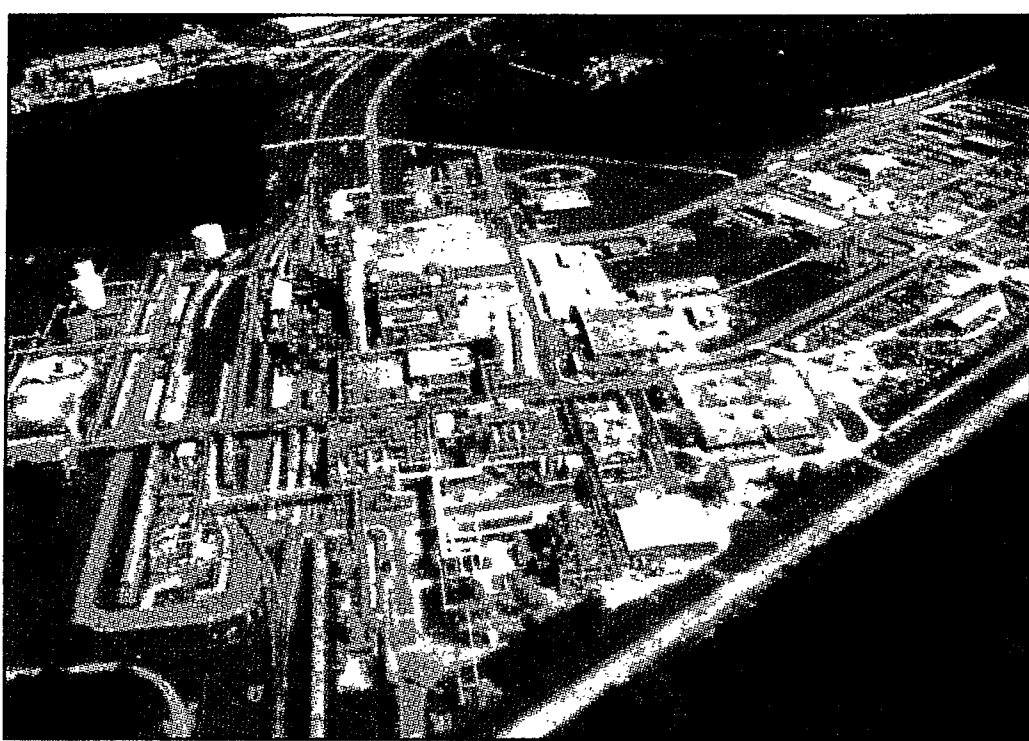
Historically speaking

Historical Society
documenting the past
during the present.
Page 6

*PLUS: Updates on Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Diamondhead, Kinn
Pearlington, public schools, libraries and much more.*

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE SEA COAST ECHO • SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2002

Hancock: The Incredible Growing County



The civilian labor force in Hancock County grew by 3.5% per year in the past decade—faster than any other county in the coastal region. Estimates indicate that growth is likely to continue due in large part to the county's assets, such as Stennis Space Center, Port Bienville, and the Stennis International Airport. Some major employers in the area include Stennis Space Center; Casino Magic; DuPont; Hancock Coun School District; Hancock County Medical Center; Coast Electric Power Association; Wellman of Mississippi; GE Plastics; Alcan Cable; Bay-Waveland Schools; and St. Stanislaus College.

Gauging our growth with business & population barometers

BY TISH WILLIAMS
Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Director

Over the past three decades, Hancock County has realized better than a 25% growth in population each decade. In the past decade alone, population grew by 35%. Today, one in four people living in Hancock County moved to the county in the past decade. For the first time in the history of the County, population in the ex-urban areas of the county exceeds the urban population of the county.



Tish Williams

ty—outside Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Diamondhead, Shoreline Park and Kiln. Seasonal homes in Hancock County decreased by one-third in the past decade.

The civilian labor force in Hancock County grew by 3.5% per year in the past decade—faster than any other county in the coastal region. Estimates indicate that growth is likely to continue due in large part to the county's assets: Stennis Space Center, Port Bienville, and the Stennis International Airport. These resources and the uniqueness of Bay St. Louis, Waveland and Diamondhead are expected to draw attention and new residents to Hancock County.

GROWTH—PAGE 28

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Cover photo courtesy of Bay St. Louis photographer Ken Murphy, from his book *My South Coast Home*, a collection of beautiful photographs of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. To reserve your book today, visit your bookstore or contact Ken at 1-228-467-5999 or www.southcoastpublishing.com.

Chamber, Smart Growth leading the way

Organization promotes smart choices to help accomodate Hancock's rapid rate of expansion

BY TISH WILLIAMS
Hancock County Chamber of Commerce

Seventy-seven years ago, a group of interested citizens who were members of the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club, established the Bay St. Louis Chamber of Commerce. In 1945, it was renamed the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce. Today, the Chamber is 650 members strong representing over 4,500 employees in every area of the County. It is a voluntary organization of business, community and governmental leaders who promote the social, civic and economic well-being of Hancock County. And, today, it is being led by an energetic group of young business leaders. "The Chamber is the heartbeat of this community," said Jody Compretta, president of the 20-member Chamber Board. "As a small business person, I consider it my duty and privilege to give back to a community I care so much about," he said. "The Chamber is the vehicle that gives me that chance to make a difference for my community and my own business," he said.

Compretta is the owner of Patients Choice, a company he founded to provide durable medical equipment and supplies to patients residing in the Gulf Coast area. As President of the Chamber, he is making economic and smart growth priorities.

During the 1990s, the Chamber leaders realized that to be competitive economically, we need to address environmental issues facing the county. Over the past two years, key community and governmental leaders have been working diligently to devise a strategic plan for smart growth for the entire county. With Ron Magee, David O'Leary and Sue Chamberlain at the helm of planning, the county is poised for implementation of the plan. Sue Chamberlain is the County's Smart Growth Project Manager and Ron Magee, Environmental Officer at NASA and David O'Leary of Wellman are co-chairs of the Chamber's Community Development Committee. This project was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Gulf of Mexico Program.

The mission of the smart growth plan is to preserve the county's culture, enhance natural resources and green spaces, ensure citizen safety, become a litter free community, foster community pride in all of our citizens, enact uniform building codes and ordinances, provide improved sidewalks, quality streets, bike paths and drainage, and develop



Photo by Ken Murphy

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce and the Smart Growth program are helping the county sail into a very bright future.

uniform gateways at intersections.

Starting in July, the Chamber Board will work with the Hancock County Board of Supervisors to review the smart growth strategy. The Chamber Board will also recom-

mend to the Board that research be conducted to determine the effectiveness and feasibility of establishing a quality of life court in Hancock

CHAMBER--PAGE 29

Hancock County—A Strategic Plan for Smart Growth

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here," asked Alice. "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," the Cheshire Cat answered."

— Lewis Carroll, from Alice in Wonderland

BY TISH WILLIAMS
Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Director

Much like the Lewis Carroll beloved story, Alice in Wonderland, if you don't know where you are going, any road will lead you there.

In Hancock County, thanks to community and governmental lead-

ers and a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Gulf of Mexico Program, we know where we are going. We have the map. Now, we must work together to make smart choices for smart growth for Hancock County.

"All growth isn't necessarily smart growth," Ron Magee points out. Magee is the environmental officer for NASA and co-chairman of the Chamber's Community Development Committee. He cites the State of Maryland as an example. "They found this out

STRATEGIC--PAGE 26

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2001 a banner year for Hancock County Library System Year highlighted by awards, special events, record use

THE SEA COAST ECHO
wards, record library use, an exhibit of Richmond Barthé's sculpture and a fly-in by the Hurricane Hunters were just a few of the happenings during the

year.

AWARDS

In September, 2001, the Hancock County Library System was one of three libraries to receive the National Award for Library Service, the most distinguished award bestowed on a library nationwide.

The award was presented by First Lady Laura Bush and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency charged by Congress to support the nation's libraries and museums.

"These institutions are doing remarkable things," said the First Lady. "They are enriching lives and connecting people to each other and to the world. They are making a true difference in their communities. I congratulate each of them for their

inspiring and innovative public service."

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce recognized the library system for its "continued commitment to community service and economic development" by presenting it the Community Pride Award at its annual banquet in January, 2001.

Chamber President Dusty Rhodes said the library system received the award for "its impact and contributions to the educational, recreational and economic development of Hancock County."

SPECIAL EVENTS

Locally owned sculptures by Bay St. Louis native and internationally renowned black artist Richmond Barthé were on display during an exhibit at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library during the February Black History Month.

The pieces on display represented several decades of Barthé's work, from the 1920s through the 1960s. The library also hosted a "School Day" when family and friends of Barthé spoke with local youths about his life and work.

Mississippi ETV's program,



PAULETTE HOLAHAN, left, commissioner with the National Commission on Library and Information Services, presents the National Award for Library Service on behalf of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to Joyce Lee, right, chairman, library system board of trustees, and Prima Plauché, library system director



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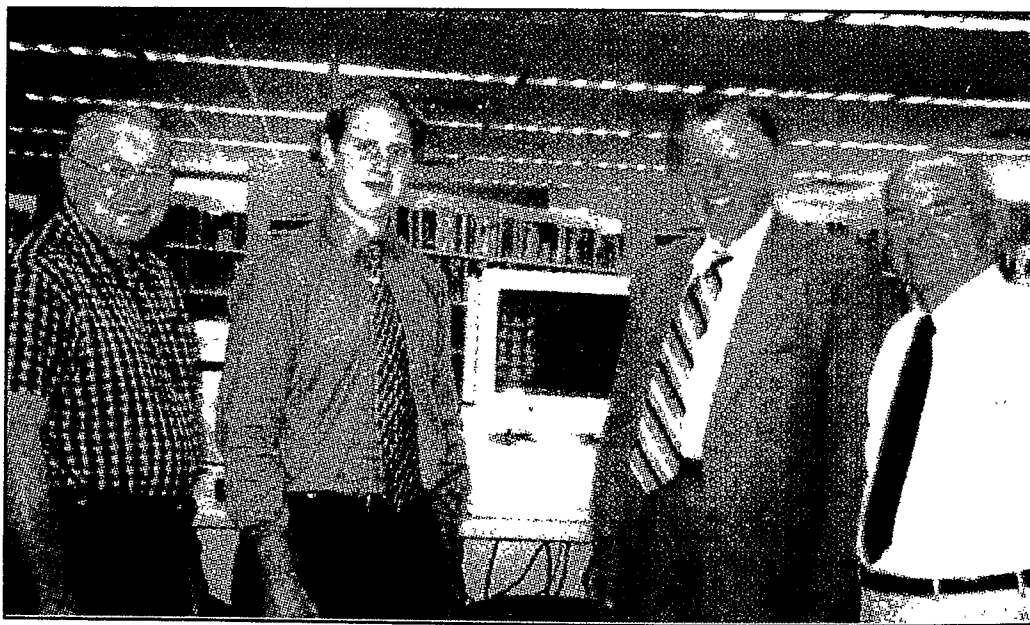
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LEO SEAL, III, second from left, and Leo Seal, Jr., second from right, with the Leo Seal Family Foundation, look over the FOCUS (Free Online Computer User Services) computers. The Seal Family Foundation made a gift to the Library Foundation for matching funds to implement the FOCUS project. Pictured with them are, left, Ames Kergosien, Library Foundation president, and C. C. McDonald, right, Library Foundation secretary/treasurer.

Mississippi Roads, visited the library to film a special on Barthé and the exhibit.

Other special events included a fly-in by the Hurricane Hunters to Stennis International Airport as part of the library system's Summer Reading Program.

More than 1,500 people attended the event and toured the WC130J

airplane.

The annual Holiday Tree Gala, hosted by the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library, drew more than 800 people, and the event will be featured in the December, 2002, issue of Southern Living Magazine.

The 2nd annual Kiln Community

LIBRARIES--PAGE 29

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Historical Society preserves our past during our present



Echo staff photo by Shannon Jenkins
Historical Society volunteers busy themselves with research. Pictured from left are Mary Bowers at the computer, Vikki Ryhiner, Charles Gray and Ruth Good. The wall behind them is lined with photos of historic Hancock County buildings.

Volunteers working to document every home in Hancock County

BY SHANNON JENKINS
Staff Writer

If you ever catch an amiable Swiss woman taking pictures of your home and taking notes, don't worry. She's just doing her job.

Vikki Ryhiner, a volunteer with the Hancock County Historical Society, cruises the roads with a digital camera in hand in a quest to photograph every home in the county.

Executive Director Charles Gray said the purpose of the Historical Society's project is simple. "This is our job — recording history," he said. "It's just what we do."

"The work we do now will save future generations from doing it," Gray said.

This project may benefit residents because many people want to know when their house was built and who built it, he said.

"It can give you a peace of mind knowing the age of your home," Gray said.

Gray, who volunteers nearly full-time, is one of four working on this particular project.

There is a researcher, a typist and, of course, a photographer. While Ryhiner runs the roads, Ruth Good researches information about the homes, and Mary Bowers enters information collected about the houses into the computer.

This group of volunteers have finished most of Bay St. Louis and is now working on Waveland.

As if this task were not enough, the society is also conducting inventory of the county's cemeteries. Gray said this helps families who are doing research on their relatives.

"Any known cemetery will be inventoried," he said. "We will also make a map on how to get to cemeteries from town."

The society also works with the living.

Volunteers are working on mini-biographies of anyone who has ever lived in Hancock County.

Each person will have one complete page and one photograph. The bio will include the person's birthplace, education, children, siblings and other items of interest. If the person is deceased, an obituary will be included.

"Once we have 250 bios," Gray said, "(the work) will be bound into a volume."

Gray said the only criteria for someone to be included is to have simply lived in Hancock County at some time; this includes summer residents.

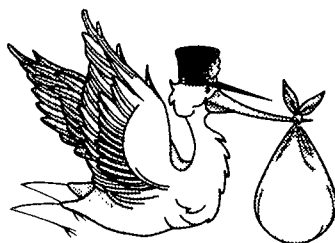
Don't worry, Ryhiner has no intentions of tracking down residents to take their pictures. Residents are encouraged to come by the Hancock County Historical Society to see the photograph of their home, contribute any additional information about their home and provide biographical information about themselves.

For more information, call (228) 467-4090.

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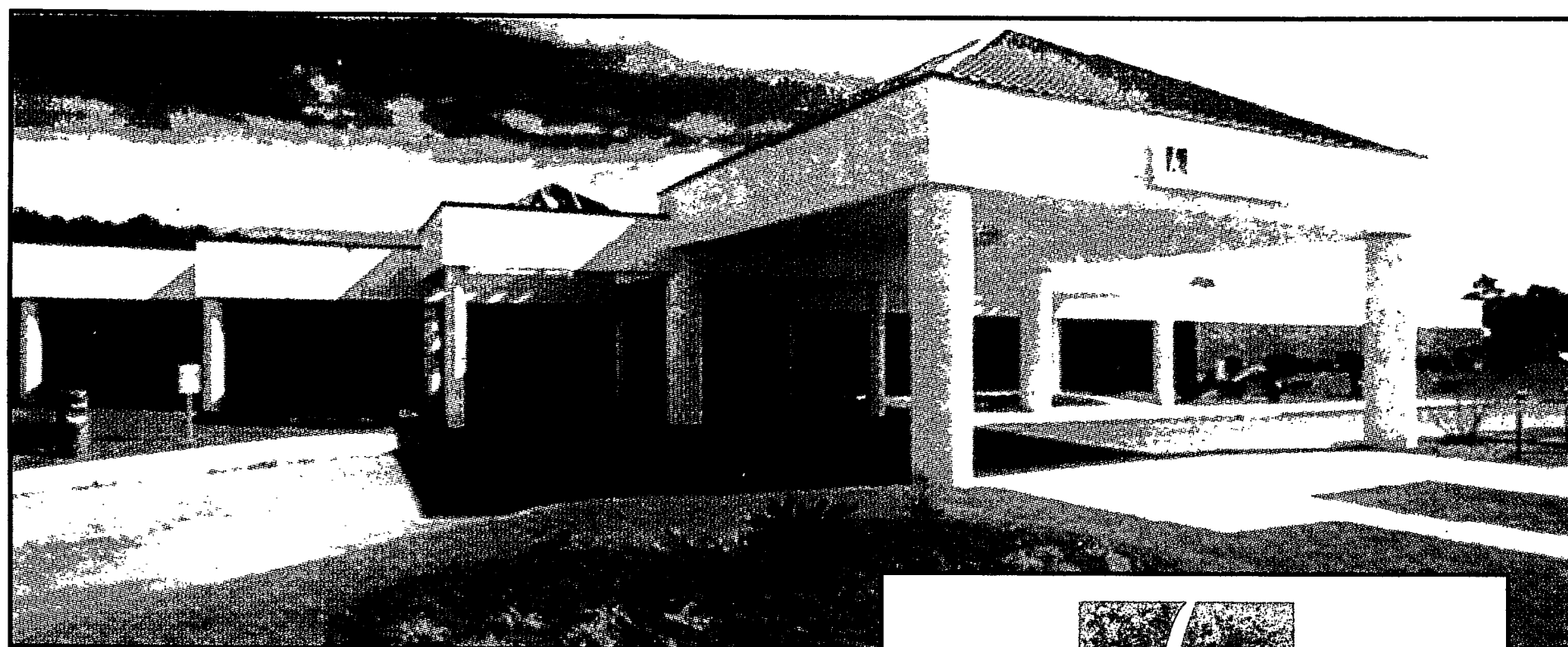


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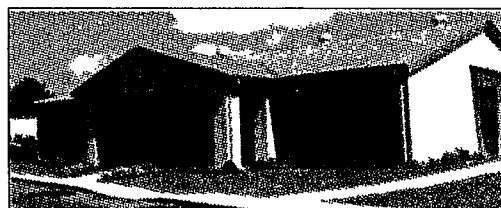
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Major renovations at Hancock Medical Center shine spotlight on convenient outpatient care

THE SEA COAST ECHO

Hancock Medical Center leaders share a goal of providing convenient access to medical services for all county residents.

"In today's competitive market, we realize the value of a patient's time," said Administrator Hal W. Leftwich, FACHE.

"Our recently completed facility master plan identified the need to improve access to existing outpatient departments while expanding others."

The emergency department now offers an "ambulatory care" unit, where less emergent injuries or illnesses can be treated, resulting in more expeditious treatment for all patients.

The emergency department averages some 2,000 patient visits monthly, said Leftwich. Two physicians are on staff during the afternoon and evening, traditionally the department's busiest hours. One is

on duty at all other times.

Work is underway at the 104-bed acute care hospital to move other departments offering outpatient services to a central location for convenient access.

A new outpatient registration area and lobby will face Drinkwater Boulevard, near the existing gift shop. Currently, outpatient and emergency patients share a common waiting area facing Highway 90.

"As a public hospital, we are also very cost-conscious," said Leftwich. "Our talented maintenance staff implemented all renovations to date. They recently relocated the pharmacy to a new area on the third floor of the Rev. Charles R. Johnson pavilion. In the old pharmacy, space was redesigned to house cardiac services (stress testing, EKG, etc.). Currently, they are working on the new ambulatory care unit and other projects."

Built in 1987, the main hospital building is relatively new by most standards. But, said Leftwich, what



Echo staff photo by Ellis C. Cuevas

Hancock Medical Center offers the latest in diagnostic technology, including a new CT scanner, which was installed this month. With the CT scanner, superior quality images are produced in a fraction of the time previously needed for a study, according to imaging department director Randy Patterson. Other capabilities of the new equipment are 3D image reconstruction and virtual colonoscopy.

was adequate to meet the community needs over 20 years ago is most certainly in need of expansion. Departments such as medical records, laboratory and materials management are all in need of additional square footage.

The inpatient expansion in late 1998 addressed several needs, including additional beds, expanded intensive care and labor/delivery/postpartum departments. The 49,000-square-foot tower doubled the hospital in size, but did not address crowding in many other areas.

The facility master plan picks up where the expansion left off, moving ancillary offices from a main corridor to create an outpatient-focused area.

The unfinished third floor of the Johnson Pavilion will house offices and other functions to make room for mammography services near the new outpatient entrance.

NEW DIAGNOSTICS

A new CT scanner installed this month offers the latest technology in diagnostic imaging. Superior quality images are produced in a fraction of the time previously needed for a study, according to imaging department director Randy Patterson. Other capabilities of the new equipment are 3D image reconstruction and virtual colonoscopy.

"Coupled with a state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit, HMC clearly has some of the best diagnostic imaging equipment on the Coast," he said.

The hospital is purchasing a new mammography unit with stereotactic capability. Through computer imaging, this equipment helps guide the radiologist to the location of a suspicious mass for biopsy.

Other improvements in the imaging department include upgraded

HMC--PAGE 28

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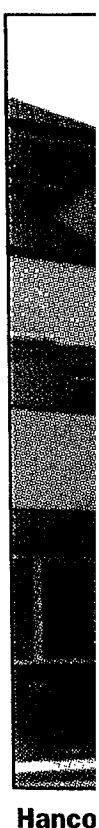
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Community outreach touches thousands

THE SEA COAST ECHO

A number of programs at Hancock Medical Center help make life better for residents in our community.

One such health initiative is the school clinic program located on-site at five Hancock and Bay St. Louis public schools. HMC provides registered nurses, medical equipment and supplies, while the schools offer office space. No treatment charges are assessed to parents or the school system for the care provided.

"Our hospital Board of Trustees considers this program an investment in our youth and the health status of the community," said Administrator Hal W. Leftwich, FACHE. "The clinics are credited by school administrators with improving average daily attendance."

"At Hancock High, the principal credited the on-site clinic with helping to lower the county's teen pregnancy rate from 5th in the state to 30th," he said. The nurses reinforce education and abstinence and offer a compassionate ear to the students.

MAMMOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Through the generosity of a group of local women, screening mammography services are available at no charge for the uninsured who are not

eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.

These advocates for women's health recently raised more than \$12,000 to sustain the program. Over the past year, more than 120 procedures were performed.

If indicated, diagnostic testing is also covered, as is the radiologist reading fee. For more information on the program, call 467-8790 or contact Coastal Family Health or your health care provider.

FREE IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations are offered free to any child under the age of 19 the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Hancock Medical Center. Infant immunizations (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio) as well as hepatitis B are administered. Birth certificates are required.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Ongoing community education classes are offered monthly through the HMC Education Department. Frequent topics include cardiac health, diabetes, osteoporosis and a variety of medical topics. Periodic health screenings are provided at different locations in the county.

An annual community health fair is hosted each May in conjunction with National Hospital Week. For information on our current schedule

OUTREACH--PAGE 28



Hancock Medical Center's main entrance.



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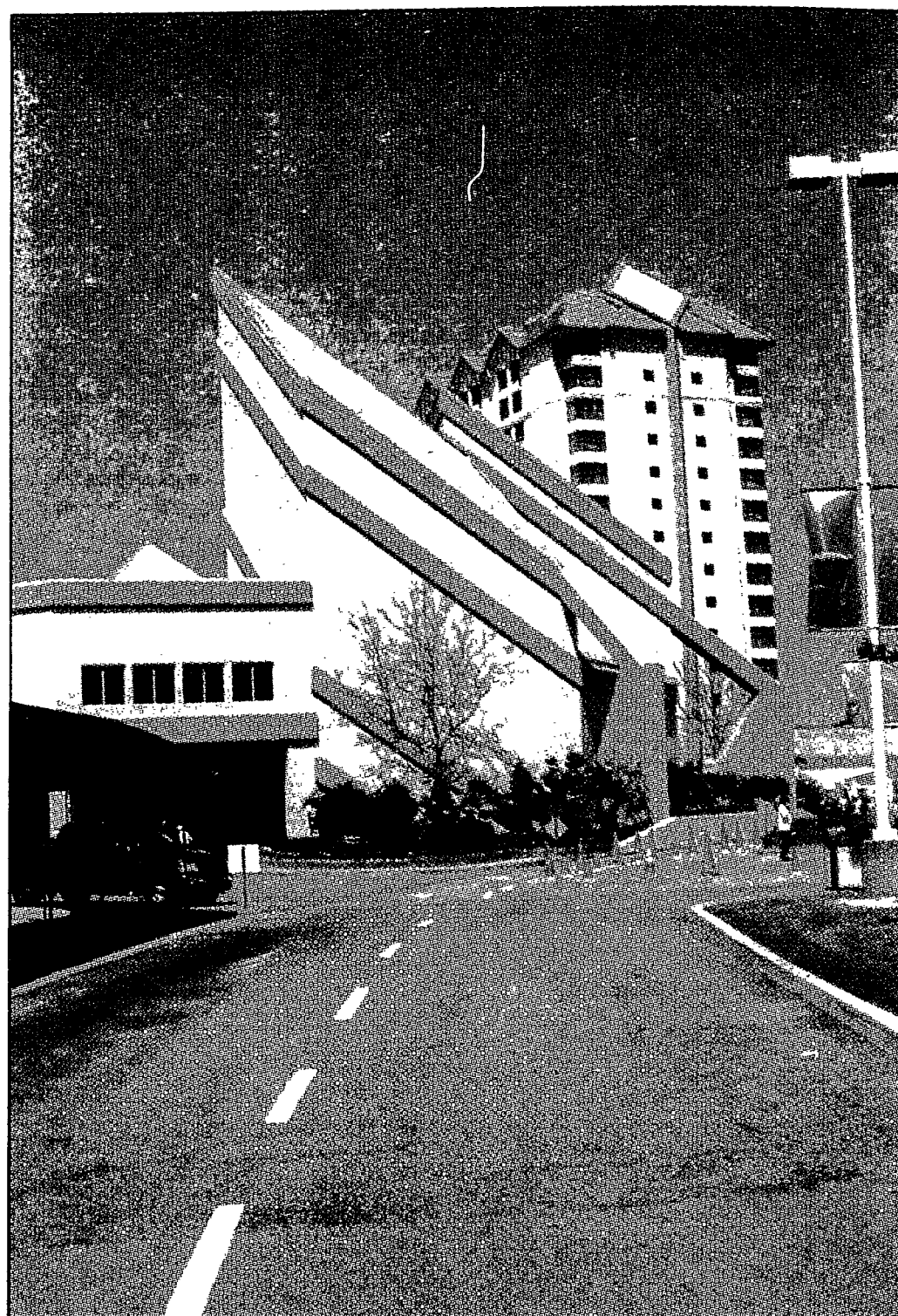
Casino Magic BSL builds toward the future

THE SEA COAST ECHO
For the past 10 years, Casino Magic Bay St. Louis has been a driving force for gaming and entertainment in the community; and with the addition of the \$37 million Bay Tower Hotel, that commitment is stronger than ever.

Situated on 600 pristine acres along the Bay of St. Louis, Casino Magic recently spent \$37 million on

the 291-room tower hotel which includes Jourdan River Grille, the Cypress Cove Ballroom, Spa at the Bay, Tokens Gift shop and additional property improvements.

The property presently offers a 24-hour casino, live entertainment in the casino lobby, major concerts in the 22,000-square-foot entertainment complex, five restaurants, an onsite Arnold Palmer championship golf course, RV park, and a 201-room Inn.



Echo staff photo by Randy Ponder
All roads in Hancock County lead to Casino Magic Bay St. Louis and its newly-dedicated 14-story Bay Tower Hotel.

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The commitment is not just about the investment in the property of Casino Magic Bay St. Louis, it is also about the contribution to the community. In 2001 alone, Casino Magic Bay St. Louis contributed a total of \$11,726,125 in city, county, and state taxes.

But possibly the most impressive feature is the planning that went into constructing the new hotel.

"The entire facility was built with an additional 300-room tower in mind," said president and COO, John Jagunich. Though only four front desk terminals are needed to

"Likewise, the pool deck is expansive enough that it can accommodate an additional 300 rooms without having to pour another pool or patio area, and there is already elevator infrastructure in place for the second tower if needed.

"We like to call it thinking ahead. If we are able to fill the 291 rooms in Bay Tower and the 201-room Casino Magic Inn that we currently have, then we will consider adding a second tower. We didn't want to overbuild. We wanted to test the waters first," Jagunich said.

The new hotel expansion has created an additional 201-room



The new Bay Tower Hotel's guest rooms give new meaning to the term "luxurious," and at a reasonable price.

Hancock County, bringing the current number of employees to over 1,350 people.

It is also expected that the upgrades will generate additional gaming taxes, property taxes and tourism taxes for the state and local governments and the area school district.

"Phase II will be developed according to what the market will bear," said General Manager Todd Raziano.

"In addition to the possibility of adding a hotel tower next to the existing one, current plans include the addition of Jackpot Java late this summer. This 24-hour coffee house will replace the current Café Magic."

Renovation plans for that project are already finished, he said. Plans also include remodeling the casino's main lobby stage area. Other property improvements could include expanding the 100-site RV park, which is currently the Mississippi Gulf Coast's only onsite casino RV park.

Meeting planners will be pleased with the over 35,000 square feet of flexible meeting space available throughout the casino resort property. Including the pre-function area, over 15,000 square feet of meeting space is in the new hotel expansion.

The 10,000-square-foot Cypress Cove Ballroom may be divided into five separate breakout rooms for smaller functions. It is also one of a few ballrooms on the Gulf Coast that is wired to accom-



The Bay Tower Hotel's pool area.

modate large-scale concerts that often require additional power for lighting and sound equipment.

The 5,000-square-foot pre-function meeting area just outside the ballroom, may also be used as catering or party space and has a wall of windows overlooking the pool deck.

An additional selling point for meetings is a private boardroom.

MAGIC--PAGE 22

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Pearlington offers a little bit of paradise



Echo staff photos by Bennie Shallbetter

Pearlington, one of Hancock County's earliest settlements, was once the most populous and bustling community in the area. The town got its name from its first claim to fame – Spanish explorers discovered that oysters dredged from the river often contained low-quality pearls, creating a short-lived cottage industry.

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Nestled on the banks of the Pearl River is a little bit of paradise. At least some people think so – those who have chosen to call Pearlington their

home.

Surrounded on three sides by the Stennis buffer zone, this quiet little community offers a peaceful familiarity and a spirit that embraces one another's eccentricities as what makes life interesting.

Majestic moss-covered oaks take the place of chain stores, and people meet at the fishing pier instead of the mall.

When Stennis Space Center moved to the state in the 1960's, Pearlington was the only community down river on the Pearl that escaped the forced evacuation of the 30-square-mile buffer zone.

Many residents of nearby Logtown and Napoleon found a new home there, next to the river they loved, and life went on.

The town holds a spring festival in March. This next year it will include carnival rides, booths with crafts and food and other activities.

The annual Easter parade is sponsored by Mt. Zion Baptist Church and concludes with a barbecue for the whole town.

The annual Christmas parade is sponsored by West Hancock Volunteer Fire Department and is held in early December.

Pearlington is part of the Hancock County School System. Charles B. Murphy Elementary houses grades one through five, and a branch of the public library.

The town itself has three public boat launches, eight or nine churches, two grocery stores, two bars, a couple of restaurants, a few small businesses and is the home of Lovecchio's, owned by ex-New Orleans Ruby Lovecchio.

If you have ever bought a stuffed artichoke, chances are it came from Lovecchio's. Every day the staff prepares the delicacy, made from an old family recipe, for export to four states.

Lovecchio recently turned part of the factory into a restaurant, which serves her specialty as well as enormous poboyos, seafood and other homemade treats.

There is no police station. County deputies keep the peace in town.

Six months ago an AMR ambu-

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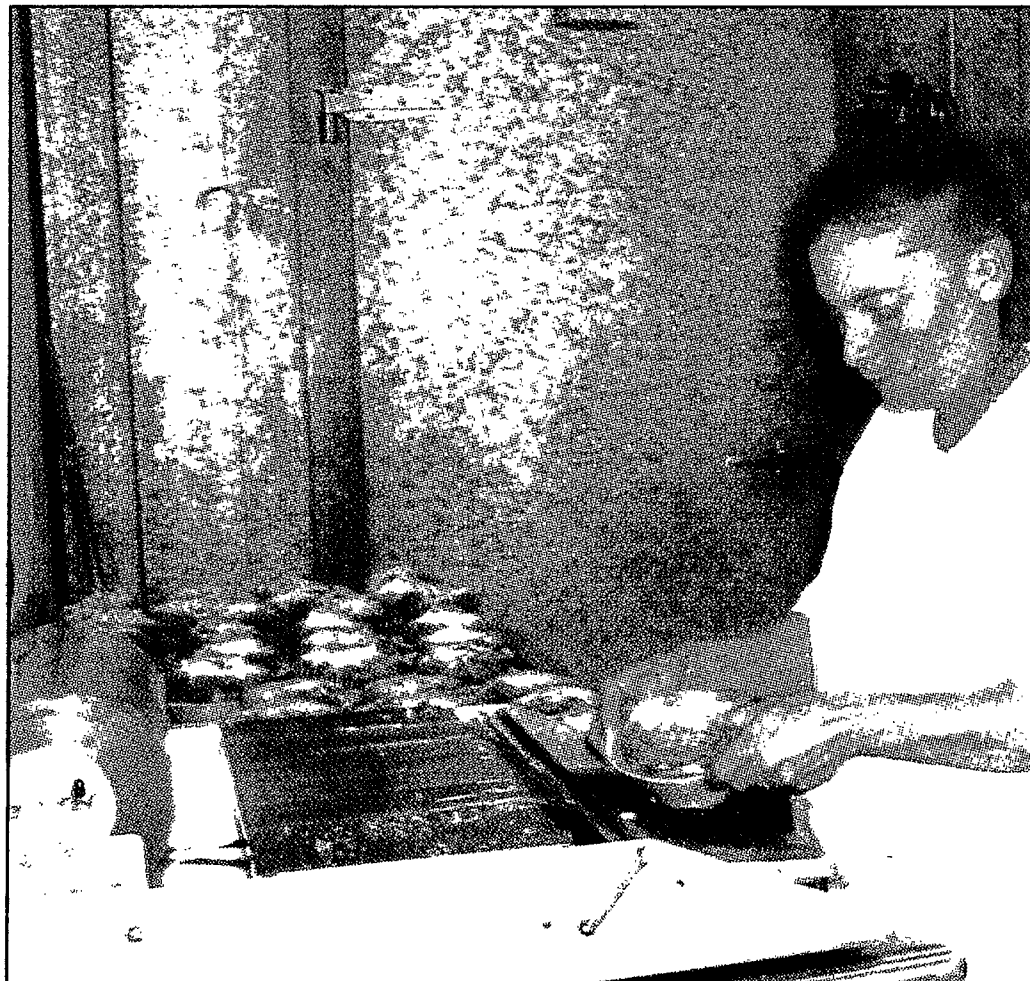
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Yvette Earl wraps stuffed artichokes produced at Lovecchio's at 5363 Hwy. 604 in Pearlington.

lance was stationed at the volunteer fire department.

The town is home to West Hancock County Volunteer Fire and Rescue, whose 18 members are first on the scene of any accident or fire from Lower Bay Road to Port Bienville to the front gates of the space center.

The department also lends a hand to Louisiana officials, covering 10 miles of I-10, including three in Louisiana.

On Highway 90 the department covers five miles of the neighboring state. Last year the department made 672 fire runs. It is equipped to handle hazardous material spills, high angle rescue, confined space rescue and water rescue, as well. When not busy with emergency calls, Chief Kim Jones also keeps an eye out around town. Not much that happens escapes his watchful eye. If a kid skips school or runs away from home, Jones will most likely know about it and where the offender is. It is not unusual for a parent to call him if there is a problem with a teen.

Pearlington does not have a sewer or water system, and to a certain extent this has inhibited growth. County officials are planning to bring a sewer system to this area within a couple of years.

It is the next area in line to be added to a countywide treatment system.

Across the Pearl River bridge, in what is known as West Pearlinton, a large seafood distributor is expected to build a new plant in the near future. The business is expected to bring new jobs and send out 75 truckloads of seafood out per day.

Once sewer and water systems come to the sleepy little town, it is expected to boom. Until then, there is plenty to enjoy, peace, tranquility and the beautiful river. Grab a pole, hang your feet over the dock and enjoy.



In Pearlinton, as in most of the rest of Hancock, fishing isn't just a pastime — it's a passion.



Chief Kim Jones and Deputy Chief Lenard Valentine of West Hancock Fire Rescue. The department is the first-response unit in all hazardous materials spills in Hancock County.

Echo staff photo by Bennie Shallbetter

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Kiln: A town on a mission to grow — quickly

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Kiln is a town on a mission, and that mission is to grow. Just a few years ago the only businesses in the small community located just

north of Interstate 10 were a couple of convenience stores.

Today, the little stretch along Hwy. 603, the main street in town, is home to many small businesses with their numbers growing.

Public officials say the population has fairly exploded in the past five years, and U.S. Census results indicate that the community showed more than a 60 percent growth rate between 1990 and 2000.

Kiln is also home to Stennis International Airport and the center for the Hancock County School District. A new arena hosts rodeos and other events.

It is also home to football star Bret Favre, who put the small community on the map.

The stretch along Hwy. 603 is the new home to a hardware store, a family-owned grocery, a flea mar-

ket/crafts center and many other new businesses.

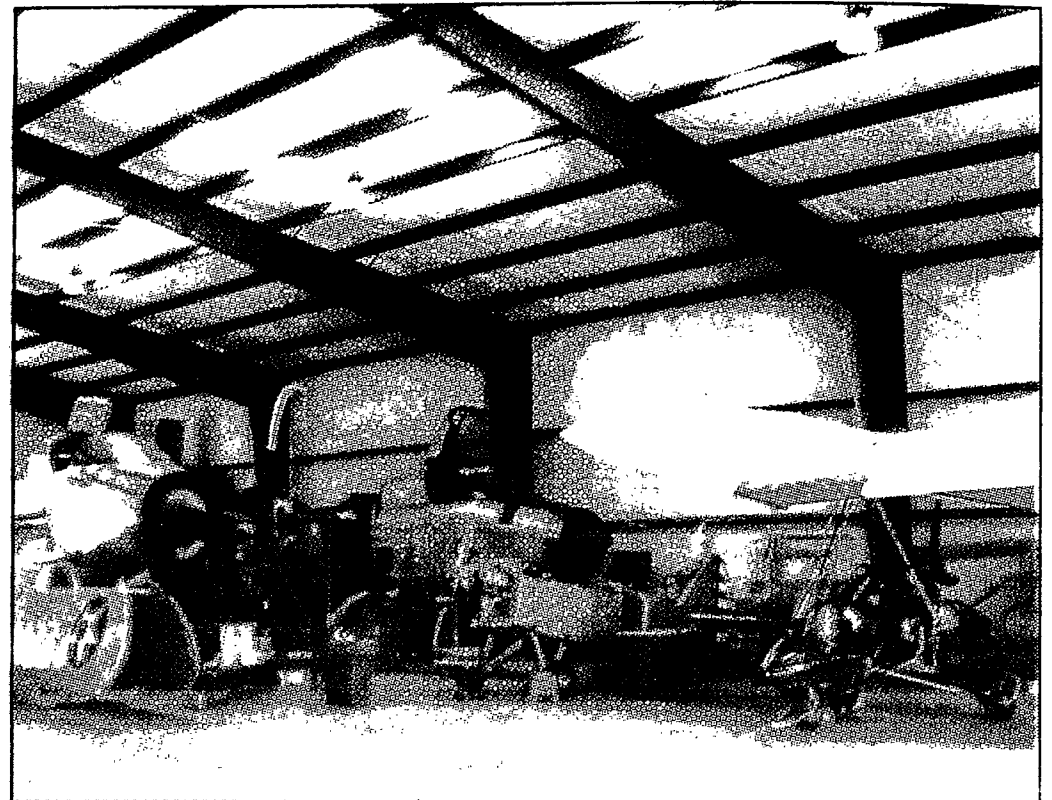
Mike Henley, along with daughters Loretta and Laura and wife Debbie, got their grocery store started by accident, after Loretta and Laura got tired of sitting in the hot sun selling produce from the family farm from the back of a pickup.

They asked their father if they could build a fruit stand, and the fruit stand, still located in front of the store, became a full-line grocery specializing in homemade green onion sausage, smoked ribs, ham, turkey and fresh cut meats.

"We didn't have a grocery out here, and I just thought we could use one," said Henley.

The village shops, located in the old Shifallo Church, were the dream of Jacob Lee. The array of shops offer clothing, crafts and flea market items, and Jacob has plans for other additions said mother Peggy.

Kimberly Hoda, who leases a space for her shop Moon Beams, is an American Taos Pueblo Indian "who married a local boy." She sells an array of native crafts and art, and in August will begin classes in oil, water color and acrylic painting,



Echo staff photos by Bennie Shallbetter
A hangar at Stennis International Airport at Kiln. A new Instrument Landing system to go on line on August 8 will open the airport to commercial traffic.

as well as classes in loom beading at the shop.

Stennis International Airport also has big dreams. A new Instrument Landing System will come on line August 8, making it possible to invite more commercial traffic. The system will allow planes to land in foggy or cloudy conditions.

The airport also has plans to add an air control tower within a year, said airport manager Bill Cotter.

A new 10- to 12-thousand-foot runway is planned to parallel the existing runway of 8,500 feet. The new runway will be located approximately 5,000 feet to the west of the existing runway, allowing two planes to land at once, Cotter said.

Planners hope to entice air cargo businesses to the airport with

improvements, while leaving the existing runway for maintenance, repair and overhaul businesses and general aviation.

Kiln is home to Hancock County High School, Middle School and two elementary schools. With growth in the county, officials say that expansion of the system is imminent.

The high school features a vocational program, which it shares with surrounding schools and many top of the line classes and electives.

In fact, many students from out of the district want to attend the Hancock County System. It's band and football team are award winning.

For Christmas, the town turns out for the annual Christmas parade featuring horse drawn wagon.

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Kiln grocery-owner Mike Henley is one of the county's new breed of entrepreneurs. Here, he's shown in front of his grocery store that started as a fruit stand in the back of a pickup truck.

What do these people have in common?

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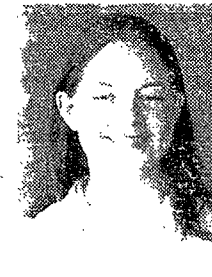
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These people are all members of the Board of Directors of the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber promotes the social, civic and economic well being of the County, and is a voluntary organization of 650 business, community and governmental leaders who represent over 4,500 employees.

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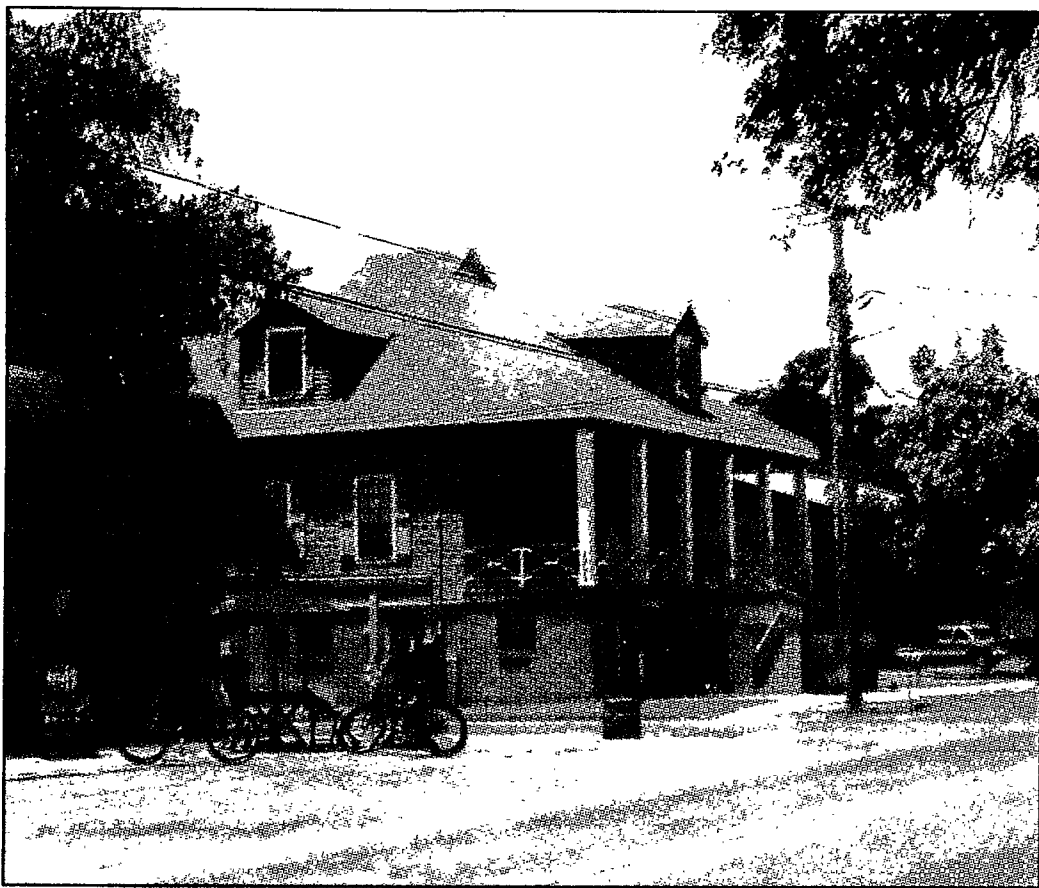
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Waveland ushers in progress by the truckload



The historic Waveland City Hall building will soon undergo renovations to make it more accessible to the handicapped, bringing it in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Echo file photo

THE SEA COAST ECHO

It's been a banner year for Waveland, Hancock County's "Hospitality City."

Waveland Mayor Tommy Longo and aldermen Milton Bernard, Ricky Geoffrey, Louie Smolensky and

Charles Piazza oversaw the beginning of several new projects in the past 12 months, as well as the continuation of several others.

The city welcomed U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran and U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor – and a host of other dignitaries – earlier this year for the dedication of the Veterans' Monument at the foot of Coleman Ave.

Workers also completed another phase of the Garfield Ladner municipal pier expansion earlier this year, with the next phase read to go out for bid. That phase will include the much-anticipated "comfort station," or restroom facilities.

"The Garfield Ladner Pier Complex has become a real showplace for state officials to proudly display what Tideland Funds can do," Longo said last week.

Work also began recently on the long-awaited new Waveland Library project. Officials conducted a

groundbreaking ceremony in May, and the city received a grant from the state Library Commission to meet the needs of the ever-growing community.

Longo said bids for the renovation of the old Waveland School will be opened in late June by the state Department of Archives and History.

Architects are currently completing bid specifications for renovations at Waveland's historic city hall building in order to make it more accessible to the handicapped and meet ADA requirements. Costs of the renovations will be off-set by a Community Development Block Grant.

Waveland's rapid growth is evident along Hwy. 90, as well as in the downtown area.

Construction is almost complete on the new Rite-Aid building at Hwy. 90 and Nicholson Ave.; and the proposed Wal-Mart Supercenter has overcome numerous obstacles and has now gone out for bid on site work.

Gov. Ronnie Musgrove "applauded the city for being pro-active," Longo said, "(by) applying for funding to offset economic growth, having received more than \$800,000

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Shopping in Waveland isn't limited to just Wal-Mart and K-Mart – the downtown area has seen a rush in new shops opening recently, such as That Cute Little Shoppe and Da Hut.

Echo staff photo by Bennie Shalibetter



Echo staff photo by Bennie Shallbetter
Residents enjoy Waveland's pristine beaches throughout the year, and the Garfield Ladner Pier (in the background) - also open year-round - is in the midst of ongoing improvements, such as a new restroom facility.

The city of Waveland has a lot going for it, including community groups like the Waveland Civic Association and the Coleman Avenue Coalition, which are devoted to improving the city for its residents. Both organizations sponsor regular events, such as the Waveland Civic Association's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which draws spectators from all across the Coast.

over the past two years from the Mississippi Development Authority."

One of the most unique projects in Waveland proved to also be one of the most popular, when private investors earlier this year opened a state-of-the-art Skate Park, drawing youngsters and enthusiasts from around the region.

"Other fantastic businesses have opened throughout the city," Longo said, "helping a strong economy in Waveland show significant sales tax increases every month for more than two years."

Among other ongoing projects:

- The reorganization and phased upgrades to the animal shelter continue to progress with the addition of the spay-neuter facility. With the support of the Friends of the Animal Shelter, Longo said, equipping the facility is the next task.

- The fire and police departments continue to upgrade equipment and technology and training.

- The addition of the new RSVP Seniors in Court program has received accolades throughout the state and nationally.

- The Floodplain Management and Community Rating Team received the Stennis Institute's Best

Program in the State award. The group has helped lower insurance rates in the city for the past three years in a row.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency presented the city with its Level 6 classification in early June, making it one of only 33 cities in the nation to earn the honor.

Also in early June, the National Weather Service and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency presented the city with a Storm Ready Community designation, making it one of only six in the state to receive the honor, and the first on the Gulf Coast.

- Steve Dockens, longtime auditor for the city, presented a glowing audit and financial report, saying it was "the best audit" the city's ever had.

- And several paving projects and water, sewer and utility expansions are in progress.

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Bay St. Louis: An art haven with a big heart

BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor

Smile when you say "Old Town."

The city of Bay St. Louis has long been considered a haven for the arts, earning that reputation thanks to its laid-back residents, caring city officials and a growing arts community. But recently, it became official.

The city was listed in USA Today (December 14, 2001 issue) as one of America's 10 Best Small Art Towns by Laura Bly.

Bly directed readers who are "looking for a fresh blast of holiday creativity and relief from mobbed shopping malls" to a list of ten hot spots which includes Bay St. Louis.

Athens, Ohio, Carrboro, NC, Ashland, Oregon, Key West, Florida, Portsmouth, N.H., Lanesboro, Minnesota, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, Chico, California, and Prescott, Arizona. Bly said, "there is a new generation of artists, performers, writers and musicians settling into once-sleepy villages and turning them into great places for arts-filled action."

She pulled her favorites from John Villani's Avalon published book, *The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America*.

"Slipping away from the Big Easy's hustle and bustle is as simple as driving an hour east along the Gulf Coast to this historic town on St. Louis Bay," Bly wrote. "Nearly two dozen art and fine-crafts gal-



A watercolor of an historic Bay St. Louis building by artist Tricia McDonald, which was on display at a recent Second Saturday Artwalk.

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eries line the streets of Old Town," where you'll also find "bed-and-breakfast inns, cafes dishing up fresh gulf seafoods, and lots of Southern charm."

In an effort to both support and enhance the arts community, the city this year sponsored Bay Arts 2002, a four-day open workshop that involved local artists and studio tours, and drew participants from all across the South.

The city's downtown merchants also work diligently to create an artistic atmosphere, sponsoring the Second Saturday Artwalk on the second Saturday of each month, April through October.

But no city lives on art alone. According to year 2000 U.S. Census reports, the city's population grew at an unprecedented 33 percent rate between 1990 and 2000.

Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Faye



Kids got to wear silly hats and learn a little about trains at a recent event at the historic Depot in Bay St. Louis. The Depot, owned by the city, sponsors events all year long.

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and council members Bill Taylor, Jim Thriffley, Tom Farve, Bobby Compretta and Doug Seal and driven city employees have worked together to build a strong infrastructure for the ever-growing community.

Among some of the highlights:

- New businesses such as Champion Chrysler have opened their doors to the public, offering expanded goods and services to Bay residents, and at the same time increasing the city's tax base.

- The opening of Casino Magic's Bay Tower Hotel in May also brought approximately 200 more jobs to the area and offered more tourism and convention facilities and opportunities.

- New real estate developments such as the upscale Chapel Hill at Hwy. 90 and Beach Blvd. near the Bay St. Louis Bridge are enhancing the area's reputation while making more homes available to accommodate the city's rapid growth.

- The city completed one of its most ambitious projects ever: A city-wide drainage project designed to prevent the flooding that previously occurred in virtually every street and every yard in town after heavy rains.

- Both the police and fire departments have stepped up efforts to protect the citizens – and

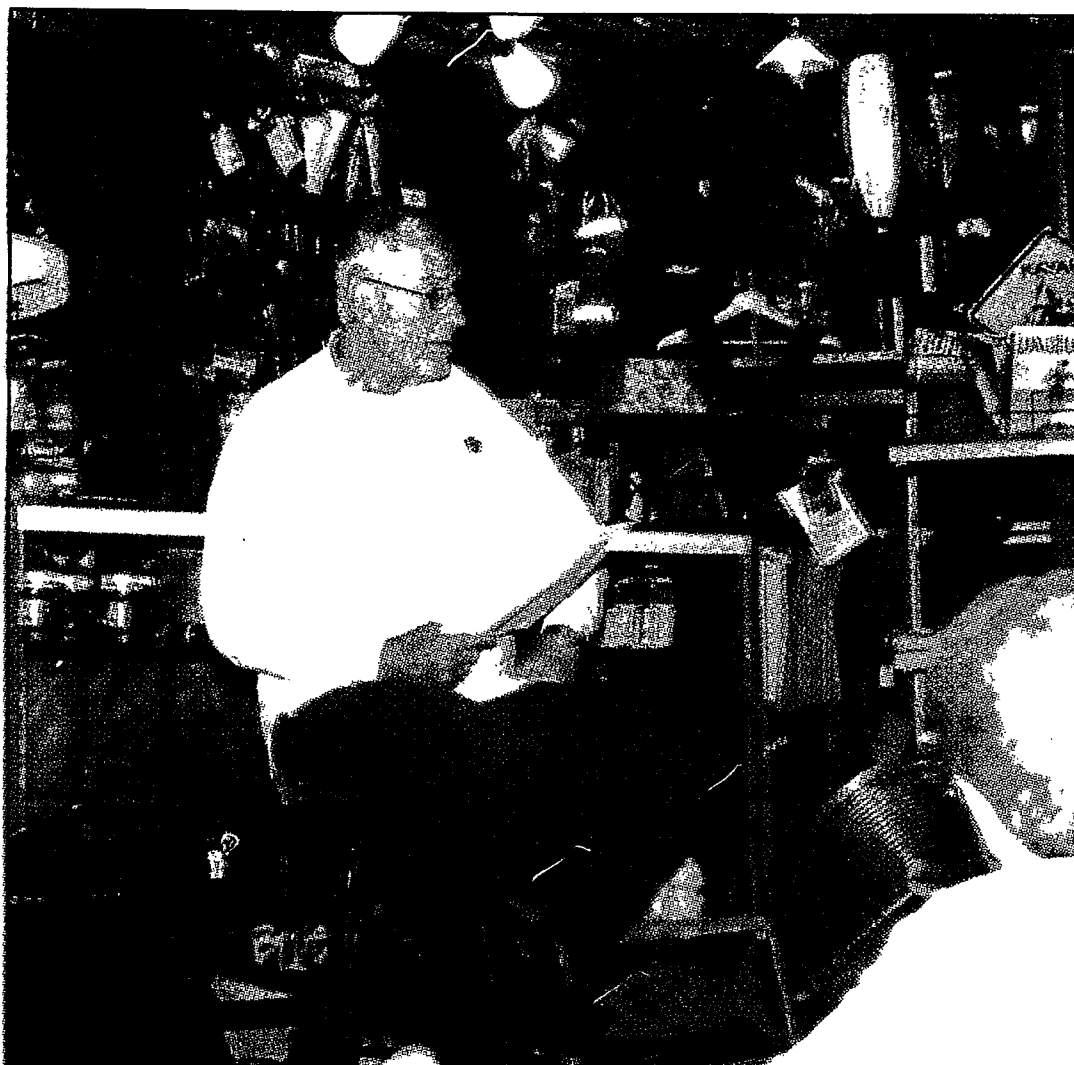
have won awards for their work.

The Bay St. Louis Fire Department, with the financial support of All-State Insurance, developed its Fire Safety House program, with a traveling model of an actual burning house that it takes to schools all around the county to help teach children what to do in the event of fire.

And the Bay St. Louis Police Department can now boast it has the Coast's Top Cop, Don Watson, who received the Mississippi Coast Crime Commission's designation as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

- Annexation of several areas in the county is on the agenda for Bay St. Louis. Earlier this month, Favre and councilmen took a sight-seeing tour to several areas with consultant Mike Slaughter, of Bridge and Slaughter, based in Oxford. The company is preparing a feasibility study for the city to look at possible annexation of most areas located east of Highway 603. It was unclear yet as to whether the city will consider annexation of areas above the I-10 corridor.

The city of Bay St. Louis is definitely growing, but at the same time, it maintains its small-town atmosphere and remains the unique community it has always been.

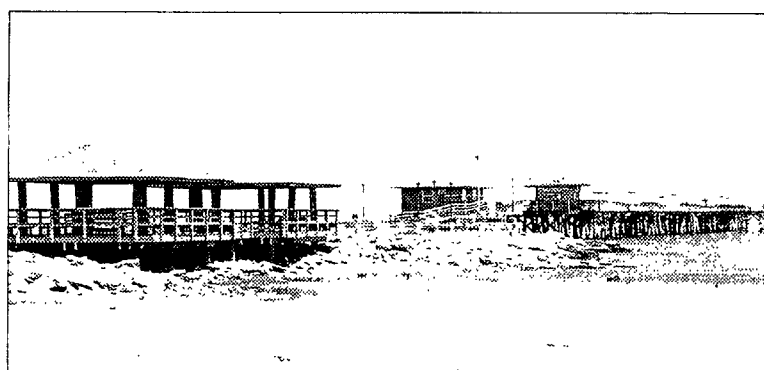


Bay St. Louis' most famous resident, world-renowned author and historian Dr. Stephen Ambrose, at a public reading of one of his works-in-progress at Da Beach House. The evening was part of Earth Events' monthly "Talk About" series.

Echo file photo

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THE SEA COAST ECHO

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Hancock County's rapidly-expanding population has definitely affected both the Bay-Waveland and Hancock school districts, creating new challenges for both systems as they try to accommodate more students while at the same time offering more services.

The Bay-Waveland School District has a proposed 2002-2003 budget of \$17,400,574 million, with a projected total revenue of \$11,035,965 and of that amount, 43 percent, or \$4,800,495 is proposed to come from ad valorem taxes. This figure represents an increase of \$556,931 from last year's figure of \$4,243,564, coming from ad valorem taxes, when the

district was operating with a total revenue of \$9,941,480.

Fifty-two percent of the district's proposed 2002/2003 budget will be spent on the actual education of students. This figure includes teacher salaries. Expenditures for guidance counseling are a proposed .05 percent; services such as the library are a proposed .05 percent; general administration, a proposed .03 percent, down from .05 percent last year and school administration is a proposed .06 percent of the budget.

The Hancock County School Board is considering a nearly-\$35 million budget for the upcoming school year.

The \$34,886,943 budget is an increase of \$944,623 from the 2001-2002 budget.

The district, which employs over 550 employees, has an annual pay-



Echo staff photo by Bonnie Shalbetter

The Hancock County School District's Charles B. Murphy Elementary School at Pearlington. The school's library also works in conjunction with the Hancock County Library System to serve the entire community.



Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher

Both the Bay-Waveland and Hancock County school districts are very active in the community. Here, a group of Bay High School students conducts a public art exhibit in Bay St. Louis during a Second Saturday Artwalk.

roll in excess of \$16.6 million that includes "employee paid health insurance, social security, retirement and worker compensation and 50 percent life insurance premium payment."

The budget also included the student population for the current school year (this is not a projection for the upcoming year):

- Gulfview Elementary (kindergarten through fifth grade) — 600
- East Hancock Elementary (kindergarten through fifth grade) — 630+
- Hancock North Central Elementary (kindergarten through fifth grade) — 730+
- Charles B. Murphy Elementary (kindergarten through fifth grade) — 120+
- Hancock Middle School (sixth

through eighth grades) — 1,060+
• Hancock High School (ninth through 12th grades) — 1,100+

Lynel Necaise, business officer for the school district, said student membership may increase by 130 for the 2002-2003 school year.

For the 2001-2002 school year, student membership was 4,322, which was 137 more students than the previous year.

"If the school district sees the same trend as last year, the student population may rise to 4,450," she said.

Another topic of the budget was that of expenses. The following is a breakdown of how expenses are budgeted:

- 46.71 percent — instructional
- 7.80 percent — student and instructional support



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- 8.12 percent — administration
- 11.71 percent — operation and maintenance
- 5.62 percent — transportation
- 5.34 percent — noninstructional: cafeteria, parent program, public relations
- 1.57 percent — construction and renovations
- 10.07 percent — debt services
- 3.06 percent — other (transfer of funds)

Expenditures were then broken down to \$6,871.19 per pupil.

Besides the fine public schools, there is also an outstanding selection of private and parochial schools in the area.

Bay St. Louis is home to Bay Catholic School for students pre-kindergarten to sixth grade; Our Lady Academy, an all-girls school; and St. Stanislaus College Preparatory, an all-boys school.

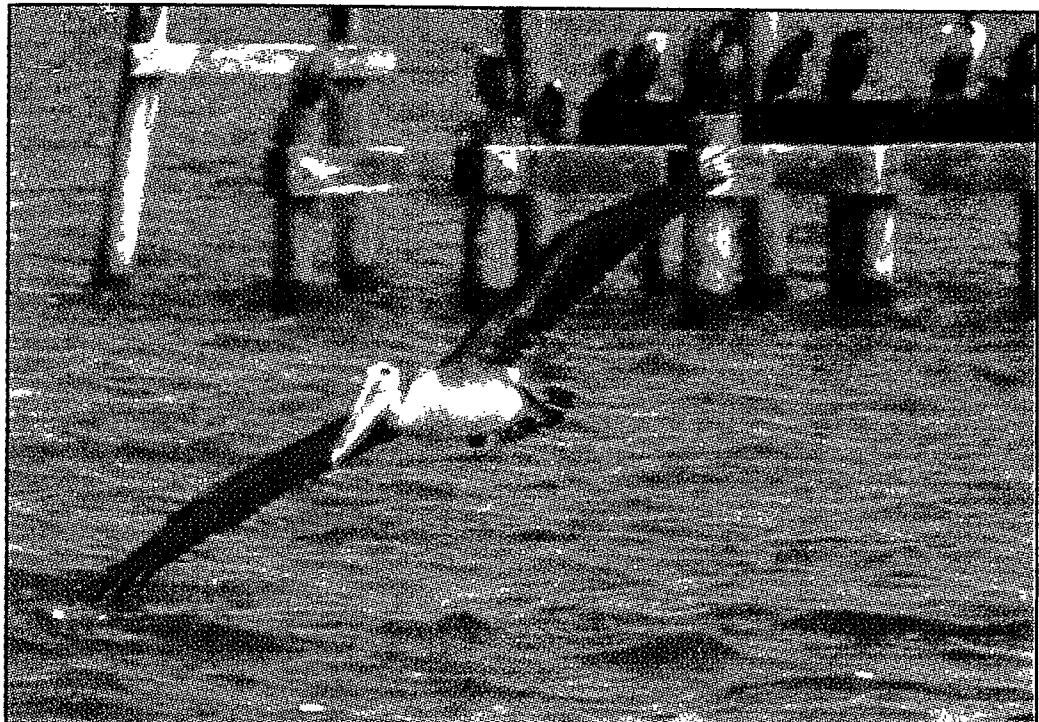
St. Clare Catholic elementary at Waveland is a fully-accredited Catholic school for boys and girls.

A number of higher education facilities also serve the area. NASA's

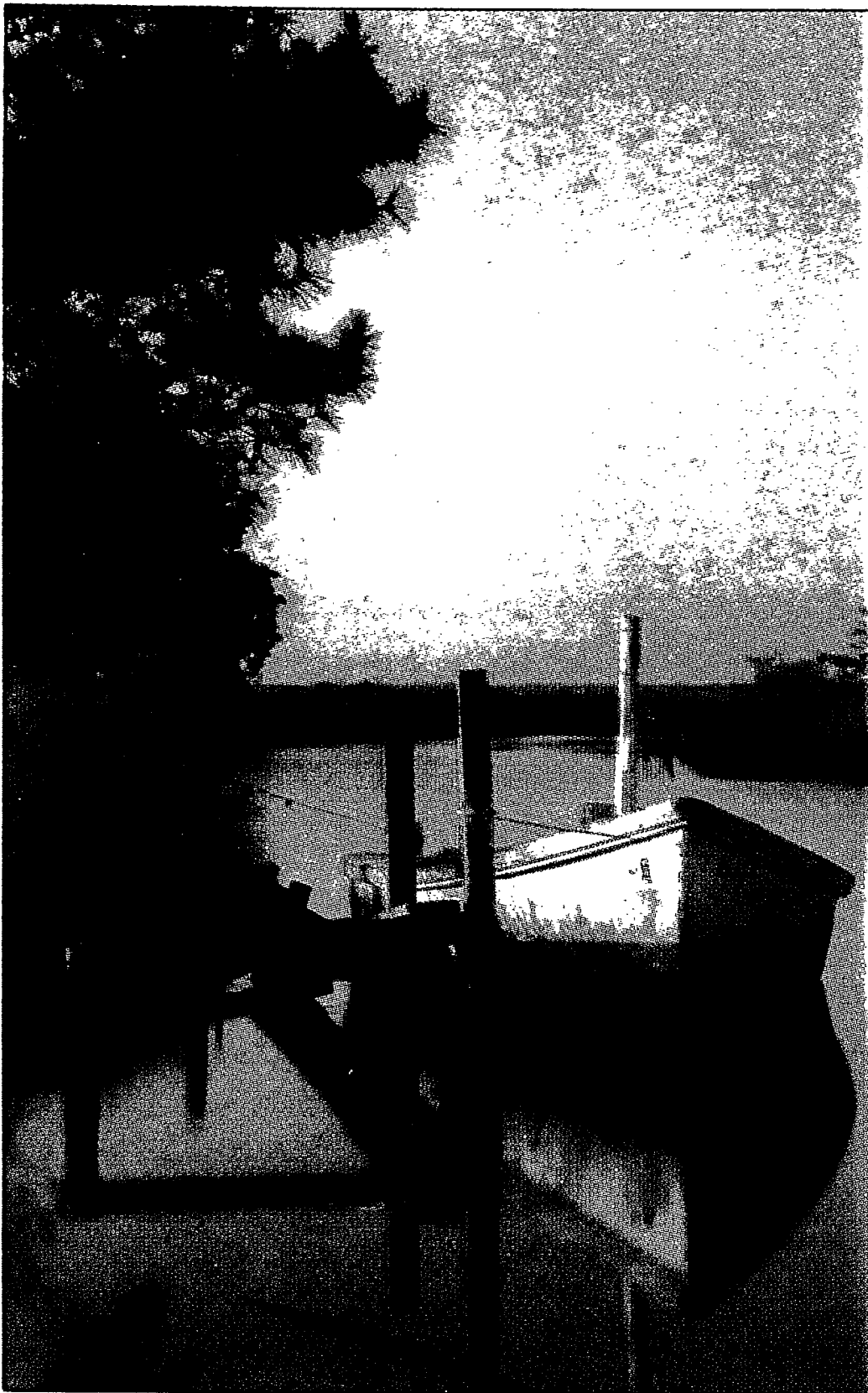
John C. Stennis Space Center is home to the Center for Higher Learning, which offers a number of bachelor degree programs, as well as advanced programs through the cooperative efforts of the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, Pearl River Community College and the University of New Orleans. USM's Gulf Coast campus also recently began offering four-year programs.

The two public school districts have also joined with Hancock County and the cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland to offer an extensive adult community education program.

With input from the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Development Bureau, the program offers a 10-week course in tourism, lodging and restaurant management which is designed to prepare graduates for entry-level jobs or more advanced training in the industry. The Diamondhead community also now offers a similar program.

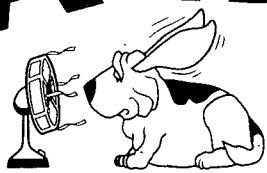


A recently-rehabilitated brown pelican enjoys his newfound health and freedom on the Bay of St. Louis.



Photographer Ken Murphy's "Docked Boat," a common — but picturesque — sight on Hancock County's bayous and waterways.

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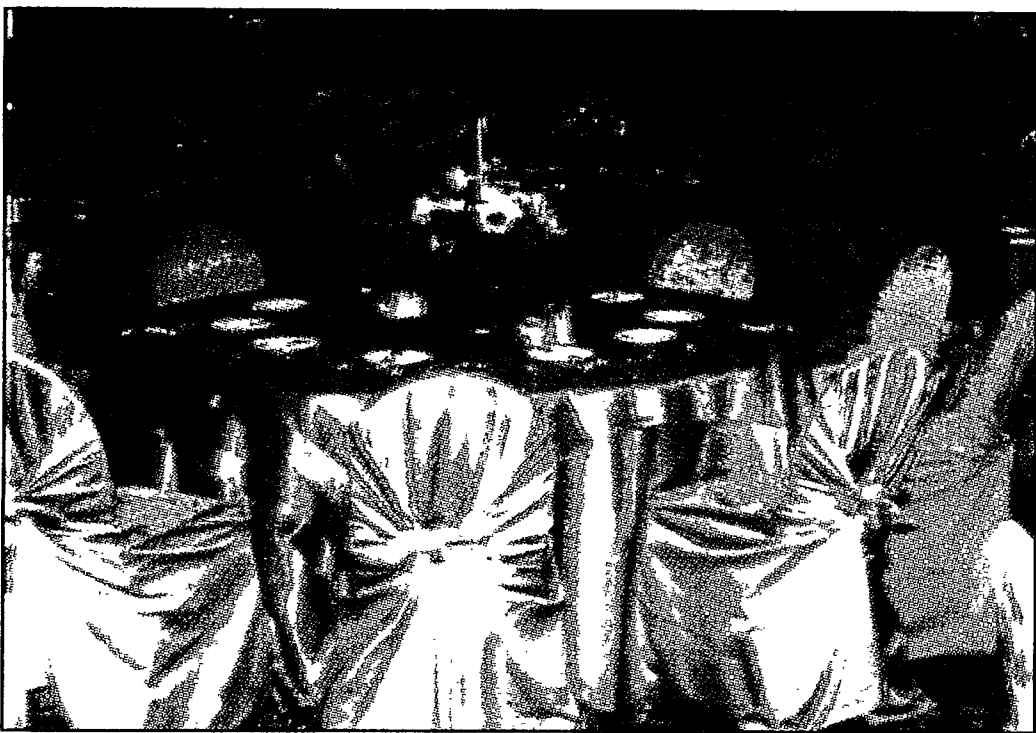
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The Bay Tower's ballroom area.

Magic

Continued from Page 11

The room has teleconferencing capabilities, a butler's closet, bar and a private restroom. The room accommodates 12-16 people. Overall, Casino Magic Bay St. Louis can accommodate groups ranging from 10 to 2,000. Casino Magic Bay St. Louis also is the site of The Bridges Golf Course. A creation of Arnold Palmer and the Palmer Course Design Company, the par-72 course offers four sets of tees that will accommodate players of all abilities.

The Bridges Golf Course has received numerous accolades from publications such as Golf Digest, Maximum Golf, and Casino Player Magazine, and is a member of the Audubon Sanctuary program.

New to the casino's long list of features is the Spa at the Bay. Spa at the Bay encompasses a spa, salon and fitness center for hotel guests. It is designed for both men and women and is moderately priced offering everything from manicures and

facials to massages.

There are even special packages for couples. The fitness area, located within the spa, overlooks the expansive pool deck and swimming pool.

Casino Magic Bay St. Louis is owned by Penn National Gaming Inc., of Wyoming, Pennsylvania. Penn National Gaming owns and operates the Casino Rouge in Baton Rouge, La.; Charles Town Races in Charles Town, W. Va.; Bullwackers of Black Hawk, Colo.; and Boomtown Biloxi Casino in Biloxi.

Penn National also owns two racetracks and 11 off-track wagering facilities in Pennsylvania and one racetrack at Charles Town Races in W. V. and has the management contract for Casino Rama, located approximately 90 miles north of Toronto.

Penn National Gaming purchased Casino Magic Bay St. Louis and Boomtown Biloxi from Pinnacle Entertainment in August 2000.

State's economic outlook not as bright as Hancock's

THE SEA COAST ECHO

The June issue of the *Mississippi Economic Review and Outlook*, published by the Center for Policy Research and Planning of the Institutions of Higher Learning, was released.

Highlights from the articles follow. Call Marianne Hill, senior economist, for more information, at 601-432-6376 or E-mail mhill@ihl.state.ms.us.

* Mississippi Economic

Forecast – The state is slowly pulling out of the current recession. The sector to watch is manufacturing: over 19,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in 2001, and only a few of those have been regained so far this year.

Until the manufacturing rebound is solid, the state's growth rate will continue to lag that of the nation. Several recent indicators have turned upward, however.

* National Economic Forecast

– Several factors will keep the pace of national recovery slow – low profit rates, excess industrial capacity and the growing U.S. current account deficit among them.

A jump in new housing starts, strong spending on inventories, and some recovery in investment and exports were positive influences in the first quarter.

For the rest of the year, the federal government will continue to be critical to the recovery; spending on national security, tax breaks and the Federal Reserve's expansive monetary policy remain basic to the turnaround.

*** NAFTA and Mississippi** – The first case filed against the U.S. under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement



Echo staff photo by Shannon Jenkins

Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, speaking at the state Sheriff's Convention, held in early June at Diamondhead.

involves Mississippi.

A Canadian funeral conglomerate is seeking \$725 million from the U.S., challenging a Mississippi jury award and a Mississippi Supreme Court action.

"More significant than the individual cast is the question of how NAFTA dispute resolution works. Hearings are strictly confidential, and an expanded definition of property rights is used," said Senior Economist Marianne Hill at IHL's Center for Policy Research and Planning.

*** Choctaw Enterprises** – By August 2002, the Mississippi Board of Choctaw Indians will be employing approximately 7,800 persons in its enterprises, most of whom are not members of the tribe. A recent study done at Mississippi State University estimates the impact on the state of these enterprises.

*** Tort Reform and More** – Facts on tort cases and outcomes in Mississippi are hard to find, but websites with some information on the subject do exist. See "Websites for Researchers."

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Diamondhead: County's fastest-growing community

BY SHANNON JENKINS

Staff Writer

The resort community of Diamondhead keeps growing and growing and growing.

The approximate population of Diamondhead is currently 7,863 compared to last year's estimated population of 7,500. Presently, the number of homes in the community is 3,090 with 134 being built in 2001.

The most recent U.S. Census reports indicate that Diamondhead grew an astounding 122 percent rate between 1990 and 2000.

Property Owner's Association

Diamondhead's growth is evident with the Property Owner's Association's recent election for the new officers and directors. Due to the increasing population of the community, there were 20 candidates vying for positions on Diamondhead's governing board. It turned out to be one of the largest elections in the community's history. Officers include Thurmon Williams, president; Chuck Garrison, vice-president; Rebecca Jordan, secretary; and Gena Cook, treasurer. Joseph C. DiGerolamo, John A. Hays and Lloyd P. Ramirez

will serve as directors.

Diamondhead Country Club

The Diamondhead Country Club recently hired a new superintendent, Steve McDonald.

"We're stepping up to a higher maintenance program," McDonald said. "We're focusing on presentation, making (the country club) more appealing."

McDonald said he has big plans for the country club but is waiting for approval. "We're working on being certified by the Audobon Society, which requires being very environmental-friendly," he said. "We hope to establish a more naturalized area."

Tee Time

With two 18-hole championship golf courses — The Pines and The Cardinal Course — Diamondhead has been the site for many golf championships. In June, the community hosted the Louisiana Seniors for the first time; they will return in December. The community then hosted the Gulf Coast Amateur Championship in late June. Future championships include the Gulf Coast Senior Championship (August 3, 4), the Diamondhead Fourball (July 26-28) and the first annual



Diamondhead is not only Hancock County's fastest-growing community — it's also one of its most active, with dozens of clubs and groups such as the Diamondhead Dance Club, shown above during Mardi Gras festivities.

Mississippi Fire Dogs/Hope Haven benefit (September 28).

Tennis World

As the location of the USTA Senior Women's National Clay Court Championships for the last several years, Tennis World hosts about 10 tournaments a year.

Tennis World also offers a full program of lessons catering to children

ages 5 and up to senior citizens and has a full service pro shop.

"Membership has grown steadily over the last three years," said tennis director Steve Garman, ranked No. 1 in Mississippi for the Men's Open and the Mississippi Pro of 2000. "We have about 100 members now."

Tennis World also hosts a charity event for Hope Haven in October.



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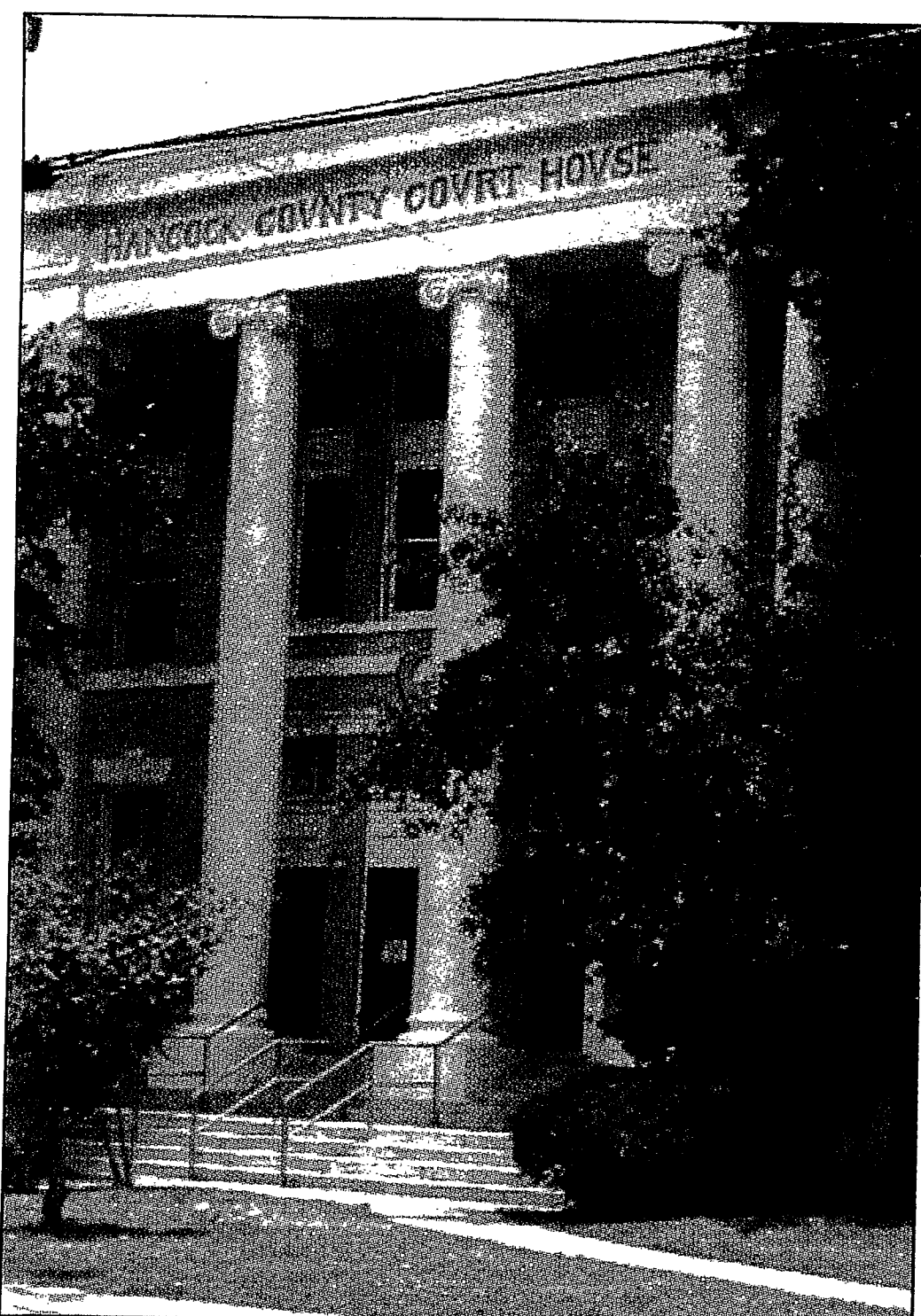
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Renovations have begun on Hancock courthouse



Echo file photo
An ambitious \$1.3 million renovation project has begun at the historic Hancock County Courthouse on Main St. in Bay St. Louis.

BY SHANNON JENKINS

Staff Writer

An approximate \$1.3 million renovation began in mid-June on the historical Hancock County Court House, which was built in 1911 at a cost of \$24,989.

Currently, the second and third floors have been cleaned out to accommodate the renovations, and the offices housed on these floors have been temporarily relocated to other public buildings.

GM & R Construction and Compton Engineering are overseeing these much needed renovations in order for the building to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Handicapped-accessibility will be available in all offices, bathrooms, entrances and exits. A new ramp will be built at the first level of the courthouse to provide the primary means of access from the parking area to the main floor.

An elevator that services all three floors of the courthouse will be installed to the rear of the court house. On the second floor, the

existing court room and office will be redesigned to make way for a larger court room that can accommodate large events like circuit court hearings, elections, public hearings, etc. The judges chambers will be relocated to where the district attorney's office is currently located. The third floor will be redesigned to house the law library and the district attorney's office.

Other modifications include the installation of a sprinkler system to enhance fire protection, all new electrical wiring, new air conditioning and heating duct work, additional parking spaces, new bathroom facilities on all three floors and new plumbing.

Edward Wikoff, an architect with Compton Engineering, said the courthouse will also receive new landscaping.

"A new landscape plan will use the existing trees and add new trees and shrubs," he said.

Wikoff estimates the completion of the project to take six to eight months.

Money for this project is coming from bond money secured in 1998 with intention of renovations for courthouse buildings.

Per Capita Income in Hancock County, 1990- 1999

1999	1997	1995	1993	1991
20,679	16,655	15,497	14,080	13,089
1998	1996	1994	1992	1990
19,519	16,038	14,714	13,322	12,454

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

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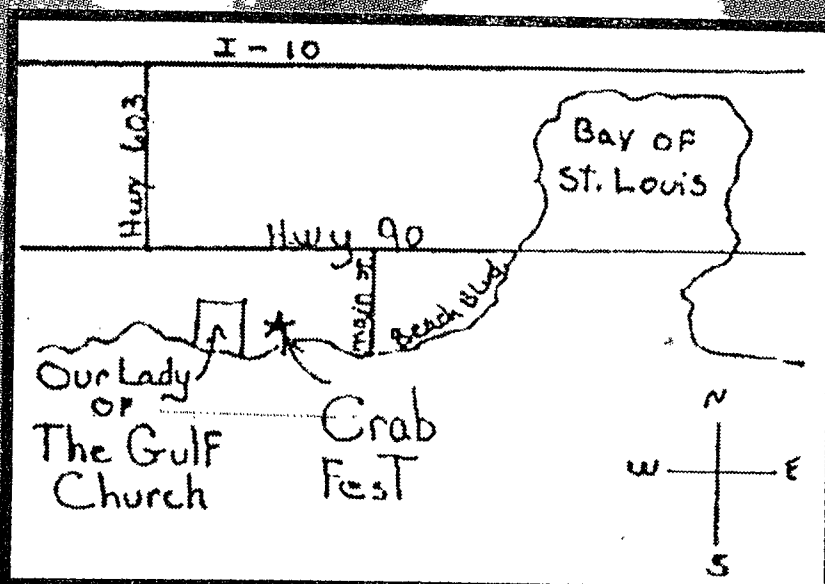
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Strategic -- planning for Smart Growth

Continued from Page 3

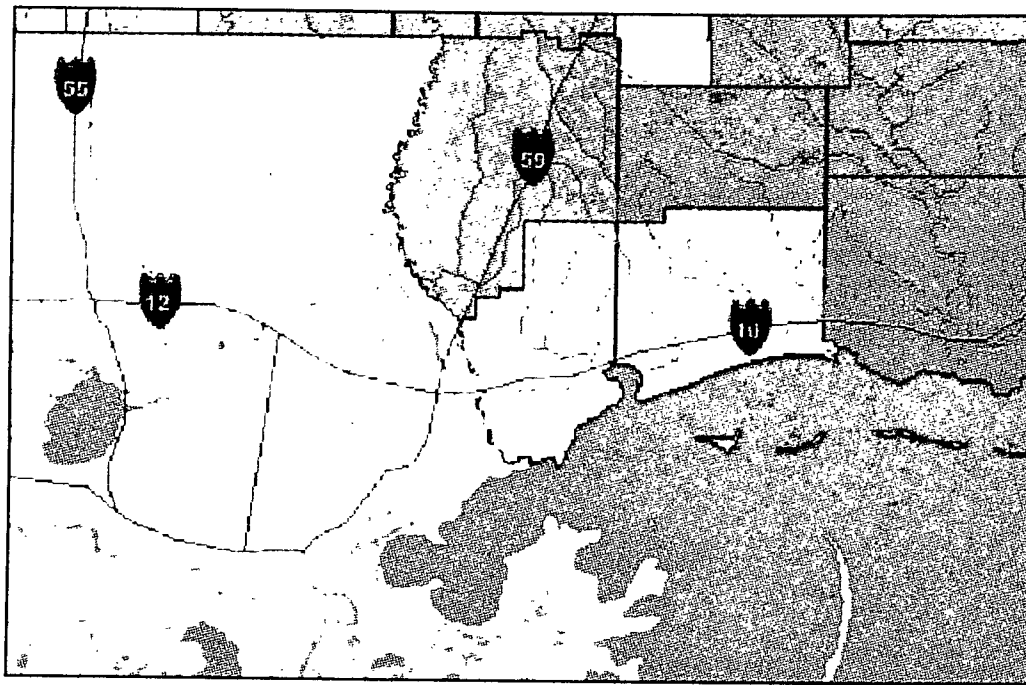
the hard way when they took a look at their planning enabling legislation and the State's grant allocation processes," he noted.

Through this evaluation, the State of Maryland governmental leaders began to realize that some of their state policies were actually contributing to suburban sprawl, devaluation of property, loss of farmland and culture, and environmental degradation. This, they believed, equated to a loss of quality of life. Lower property values translated to lower taxes, which put local governments at a disadvantage to improve the quality of life within their jurisdictions.

The State of Maryland re-examined their policies and formed a partnership with governmental leaders and the business community to make better, smarter decisions to enhance quality of life and avoid degrading property taxes.

"Not growing smartly," said Sue Chamberlain, Smart Growth Project Manager for the County, "can actually cost a community money." "Look at the national trends," she said. "Across the United States, the rate of land consumption is now exceeding the rate of population growth. This leads to longer commuting times, more costly public service costs, and the loss of the cultural and social fabric of our communities. In fact, we are spending 11% more time in our cars than we did five years ago. Yet, only 18% of our drive time is spent commuting to work. 46% of the trips we make are to run errands."

From 1982 to 1992, land development increased 1.8% faster than the population increased. From 1992 to 1997, development increased 2.5%



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: With its easy access to interstate highways, railways and waterways, Hancock County is poised on the brink of unparalleled growth in the 21st Century.

faster than population increased. The Pew Commission on Oceans estimates that by 2025, developed land will increase by another 50% to 80%. New development would fill a land area equal in size to Wyoming or create another 100 Houston sized cities.

As our communities grow outward, more infrastructure is required to service the larger land area with less density, costing more per capita to provide the services. A smart growth plan can insure that we are looking at a better, "smarter" way to develop. This term was actually coined by Maryland's Governor Parris Glendening. The smart growth concept looks for ways to avoid municipal fiscal crisis, longer commuting times and isolated neighborhoods.

The five principles of smart growth are:

- * the efficient use of land resources;
- * the full use of urban services;
- * mixed land uses;
- * transportation

options; and,

- * detailed human scale development.

For Hancock County, it all began in 1996, when the Chamber, the Hancock County Board of Supervisors and the Hancock County Water and Sewer District joined together to address the need for sanitary sewer in rapidly developing coastal areas. Malfunctioning septic systems were impacting water quality. The result was a strategic plan and community support to provide sanitary sewer in areas located south of Interstate 10.

Through the Chamber, the County received a grant from the USEPA Gulf of Mexico Program to investigate a broader array of concerns in Hancock County. It all came together when Sue Chamberlain was tapped to manage the program. With her background in planning and economic development, she was perfectly equipped to staff the program. She enlisted the support of community and governmental leaders, like Ron Magee and David O'Leary; and, with the

Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, it all came together in a detailed smart growth plan of action. The Committee met during 2000 and 2001 to develop visions, goals and recommendations for smart growth, reaffirming the mission of the Chamber's Vision 2000 team of leaders. During this

process, the committee received more than 400 responses to a community survey to define the County's priority issues:

- * Availability of clean drinking water;
- * Availability of sanitary sewer;
- * Clean water in the Bay of St. Louis, the Mississippi Sound, rivers, bayous and streams;
- * Litter control; and,
- * Drainage.

"This is sensible growth, not slow-growth or no-growth," said Ron Magee. Today, the county is poised for implementation of the plan.

SMART GROWTH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UP-DATE

Plan Adoption

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently adopted the Smart Growth Plan. On July 1, the Hancock County Chamber will meet with the Board of Supervisors to present the plan and request adoption of the plan by the Hancock County Board of Supervisors.

Hancock County Gateways

In late 2001, plans for the Hancock County Gateways were completed. This effort was the result of three community design workshops held throughout Hancock County. The results of these meetings were incorporated into the plans for the Gateways. In total, four Gateways for Hancock County were designed. The locations for these Gateways are at (1) the Highway 90 Bridge at Bay St. Louis, (2) the intersection of Interstate 10 and Highway 603, (3) the intersection of Highway 603 and its split with Highway 43, and (1) at an area near the Highway 90 and Highway 607 intersection.

The Gateways were designed by local architect Allison Anderson and her firm Unabridged Architecture. Singing River Landscaping helped with the development of the design. The designs rely heavily on native trees and plants within the area, and will feature live oaks, yellow pine and the Tung tree. While not native, this tree has contributed to the economic livelihood of the region.

Stormwater Plan

The Hancock County Board of

STRATEGIC--PAGE 27

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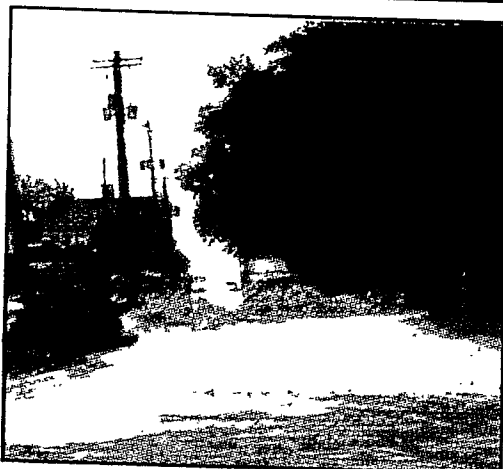
Strategic

Continued from Page 26

Supervisors has asked the Chamber's Community Development Committee to assist the Hancock County Stormwater Task Force in the development of the a Stormwater Plan for the County. All the coastal communities in Mississippi will be required to submit a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Permit for Stormwater by March 10, 2003. The Community Development Committee will assist the efforts of the County's Task Force, by determining the private sector resources available to help implement some of the required best management practices recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Hancock County Greenways Plan

In February, the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Hancock County Board of Supervisors received \$250,000 from Coastal Impact Assistance Program funds to develop a Greenways Plan for Hancock County. The effective use of greenways, green spaces, buffers and trails will assist Hancock County to realize a greater quality of life, offer-



Massive drainage projects all over the county and within Bay St. Louis city are helping to make the area more flood-resistant and environmentally-sound.

ing other options for transportation, like bike trails and walkways, and greenspaces that filter noise and capture storm water and buffers incapable land uses.

The plan will be complete in two and one-half years. "Two trail projects are planned as part of this effort," said Co-Chair Ron Magee. "We want to make sure that the standards, materials and the maintenance scenarios that we recommend are tested before we ask for

adoption of the plan."

Wastewater

Efforts by each of the Wastewater Collection Districts are beginning to payoff. The Chamber has almost reached its goal of seeing that sewer is available to all homes and businesses located south of Interstate 10. Pearlinton received funding to begin planning and building a collection system that will be treated by Southern Regional. Hancock Water and Sewer District is awaiting funding through a grant from the USDA Rural Development Administration. These funds will provide sewer services to about 1,100 residents located in Ansley and Springwood Park. The Kiln Water and Sewer District received grant funds from two sources to begin the design engineering phase of sewer collection services in Kiln.

Ultimately, each of these Collection District will provide wastewater collection to residents living in low-lying areas of the county, where septic tanks, due to soil conditions may fail. And Southern Regional, the treatment facility for the collected wastewater, is investigating the feasibility of a land based discharge point, instead

of a point discharge into coastal waters.

Beautification Efforts

Several efforts are underway to beautify the business areas in Hancock County. Chamber members Billy Ray Sanders and Stacey Smith of Coast and County Realty, Inc. are proposing the beautification of medians on Highway 603. They plan to start with the median in front of their business, and hope that other businesses along Highway 603 will be interested.

In keeping with the Smart Growth Plan, and complimenting the Gateways Designs, Landscape Designer Pat Drackett picked the use of plants that are natives, or well acclimated to the area. Funding and maintenance of the program is proposed as a partnership between government and businesses along 603. The cost estimate per median is projected at around \$1,400 - \$2,000. To insure that projects support the master plan for Hancock County, businesses interested in participating in this program should contact the Community Development Committee through Sue Chamberlain at 493-1147.

Garden Park Medical Center

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One of Hancock County's many piers on the Mississippi Sound.

Photo by Ken Murphy.

HMC

Continued from Page 8

nuclear medicine equipment, a new fluoroscopy suite and an additional portable x-ray unit to facilitate services for patients in intensive care or the emergency room who cannot be easily transported.

NEW PHYSICIANS

The medical staff will welcome Bay St. Louis native and board certified orthopedic surgeon James Thriffley, M.D. in August. Thriffley is currently on active duty at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. Coast Urology Center is adding a fourth physician to the group this summer, Wes Bryan, M.D. Other additions to the medical staff are anticipated later in the year.

OUTREACH CLINICS

"We strive daily to provide the professional care our community deserves," said HMC Board of Trustees President William A. Tate III. "Part of the hospital's vision is to provide access to medical care for all residents of Hancock County. This has resulted in the operation of three off-campus clinics."

Hancock Family Care Center is located on Highway 603, next to the post office in Kiln. A nurse practitioner is on hand Monday through Friday for general medical care.

At Port Bienville, Hancock Medical Services/Robert H. Baxter Building is located near the entrance to the industrial park. Family and occupational medical

care are available to employees at the site and residents of the surrounding communities of Pearlinton, Ansley and Lakeshore. Imaging services will soon be offered on-site. A full spectrum of rehabilitation services are offered at Hancock Rehab Services in Diamondhead. Located at Shepherd's Square, registered therapists provide physical, speech, occupational and aquatic therapy.

In a cooperative effort with the Hancock County Sheriffs Department, Hancock Medical Center provides a registered nurse at the jail to help the county contain medical costs.

Through HMC's occupational network, local businesses partner with the hospital for various services such as drug screening and employee wellness programs.

The hospital recently received full accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Health Organizations for another three-year period, and received a Quality Commitment Award from the Mississippi Quality Awards Program.

Hancock Medical Center also participates in the area Trauma Network and is a member of the National Disaster Medical System, having recently completed a week-long hurricane preparedness exercise in conjunction with Keesler Air Force Base.

Outreach

Continued from Page 9

call 467-8727, or to request a speaker for a group or community organization call 467-8790.

HMC FOUNDATION

The Hancock Medical Center Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that supports the hospital through the purchase of equipment, furnishings and sponsorship of programs in the community. Foundation board members serve as ambassadors in the community and assist with fund-raising efforts.

The seventh annual gala dinner dance Moonlight on the Bay is planned Friday, September 6 at

Casino Magic Hotel's new Cypress Cove Ballroom. Honoree is former chief of staff and respected general surgeon Joseph R. Lee, M.D. For information, contact Janet McQueen at 467-8790.

On October 11, the Foundation will host its second "Scrub Scramble" golf tournament at The Bridges at Casino Magic. For information, contact Maurice Singleton at 386-7138, John Baxter at 466-5930, Walter Billups at 466-4422 or Hank Wheeler at 467-8680.

Growth

Continued from page 2

During May 2002, when compared to May 2001, there were fewer permits issued in Diamondhead and Hancock County and more permits issued in Bay St. Louis and Waveland. During May 2002, retail sales tax collected in Bay St. Louis was at just over \$100,000 while in Waveland it was in at close to \$150,000. The unemployment

rate in Hancock County was at 4%, lower than the average national (5.7%) and state (6.4%) rates, yet slightly higher than it was a year ago. Overall, visitor rates throughout Hancock County are slightly higher during May than it was last year. And, there are noticeable trends in new building for total and residential permits.

WORLD NEWS IN EYE SURGERY

Dear Friends,

We want to cover several exciting new technologies that will expand our refractive surgical armamentarium. One - wavefront-based excimer laser surgery - is a significant hardware and software upgrade to current technology, which should give patients better than 20/20 acuity on a routine basis. The femtosecond laser is a laser microkeratome, with several potential advantages over the current technology. Intracorneal lenses have been tried for decades, but new material-processing techniques may allow modern efforts to succeed where others have failed. Radio-frequency technology is a new approach to thermokeratoplasty. Although regression plagued earlier iterations of thermokeratoplasty, the collagen helix may at last be permanently altered with this unique approach. Phakic intraocular lenses have also been around for several years; the new anterior and posterior chamber IOLs have benefited from decades of our collective experience with aphakic IOLs. Three very different designs are marching through the Food and Drug Administration approval process. Last, but not least, the accommodative intraocular lens is making early, but impressive, headway. Fundamentally different from current three-piece IOLs, it may one day provide cataract patients with the accommodative reserve they had in their 30s (and without any loss of contrast sensitivity).

Hopefully, in the very near future, complicated diseases like Diabetes Mellitus, will not simply be treated but will actually be able to be cured. Our insight to simple vascular disease may well allow us to extend our longevity another decade. New importances shed on old ideas of good diet, exercise and self care. Remember, life is a gift from God, you must treat it that way.

Sincerely,

Dr. Allen J. Koskan, M.D.
Koskan Eye Clinic
Mississippi Eye Center



The blue crab is both one of Hancock County's local delicacies and a work of natural art.

Photo by Ken Murphy

Chamber

Continued from Page 3

County. A quality of life court would provide a mechanism for adjudicating public nuisance and health cases. Bryon Griffith, USEPA Gulf of Mexico Program, told the Chamber's Community Development Committee at a recent meeting that Hancock County is "the most remarkably positioned county along the Gulf of Mexico to do the right thing for growth." "What we do as a community in the next 5-10 years is what will determine the future," he said.

"The Chamber is taking the leadership role to increase awareness of the smart growth plan and move us forward to make smart choices for smart growth," said Compretta. "We cannot accomplish these goals without the total support of the community. If you are not a member of the Chamber, or if you are and are not actively involved, I strongly urge you to get on board," he said.

The Chamber is well equipped to foster implementation of the smart growth plan with the support from the Hancock County Board of Supervisors. There are strong committees in place through the Chamber: Community Development, co-chaired by Ron Magee, Environmental Officer at NASA and David O'Leary of

Wellman; Beautification, chaired by Ellis Cuevas, publisher emeritus of the Sea Coast Echo; Education, chaired by Bill Cotter of Stennis International Airport; Member Services, co-chaired by Linda Graffeo and Amy Corr, both of Hancock Bank; and, the BREC (Business Retention & Expansion) Committee, chaired by Jon Ritten of Coldwell Banker Coast Delta Realty. Compretta said the Chamber is also tapping the county's future leaders by involving students from area High Schools. Representatives include: Veronica Fucich, Hancock High School, Katy Looney, Our Lady Academy, Joe Graves, Bay High School, and Kunal Patel, St. Stanislaus.

"This community is one of the fastest growing areas in this State. Because of this," said Compretta, "we need to tap all of our resources to insure that as leaders we are making smart choices for smart growth." For more information on the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce and the Smart Growth Program, contact Tish Williams at 228-467-9048. Or stop by the Chamber Office at the Colonial Plaza, 412 Highway 90 in Bay St. Louis.

Libraries

Continued from Page 4

Tree Lighting saw more than 1,000 children and adults come out to see Santa.

RECORD LIBRARY USE

The library system ended its fiscal year September 30 with more than 250,000 circulation transactions, making it one of the busiest libraries in Mississippi.

The Kiln Public Library, which opened in April, 2000, accounted for 26 percent of the total transactions, showing a 40 percent increase in usage in 2000/2001.

WAVELAND LIBRARY RENOVATION/EXPANSION

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in April, 2002, for the \$500,000 renovation/expansion project at the Waveland Library. The project will expand the present building to 5,000 square feet and bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), plus implement energy conservation measures.

New equipment and furnishings will support the expanded services of the library.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Library System annually participates in the Chamber of Commerce's Business & Industry Expo, the Coleman Avenue Wave Fest and the Bay St. Louis Public Safety Day.

The Waveland Library also kicked off its Born to Read program with the presentation of a reading readiness package to newborn Zachary Scott Pack, son of Debbie and Dennis Pack.

MAJOR GRANTS AND GIFTS

The library system was the recipient of several state bond grants during the year through the Mississippi Library Commission for two major projects.

They are the expansion/renovation project at the Waveland Library and the FOCUS (Free Online Computer User Services) project.

Matching funds for the project were provided through a gift to the Library Foundation by the Leo Seal Family Foundation.

"This has truly been a banner year for our library and the community it serves," said Prima Plauché, library system director.



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A recent sunset on the Mississippi sound.

Echo staff photo by Randy Ponder

Rates of Growth in Hancock County and Hancock County Communities, 1960-2000

Community	1990-2000	1980-1990	1970-1980	1970-1960
Hancock	35.7%	29.6%	40.8%	23.8%
Bay St. Louis	1.8%	2.2%	16.9%	33.1%
Waveland	24.3%	28.2%	34.7%	181%
Diamondhead	122%			
Kiln	61.6%	50.8%		
Pearlington	5.1%	5.3%		
Shoreline Park	46.2%			

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census

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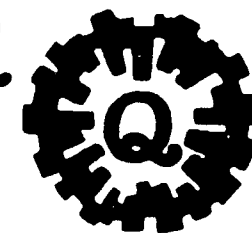
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Sheriff's Narcotics Division waging war on drugs

Group has investigated 78 cases since first of the year

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS
Publisher Emeritus

The Hancock County Sheriff's Department newly-formed Narcotics Division has investigated some 78 drug cases since its beginning on January 1, 2002, reports Sheriff Steve

Garber.

The Narcotics Division was formed following the dismantling of the Multi-drug Task Force on December 31, 2001. The task force included the Sheriff's Department in addition to the Bay St. Louis and Waveland police departments.

Bay St. Louis and Waveland have formed a Drug Task Force for the two municipalities.

"Capt. Matt Karl is the director of the Sheriff's Narcotics Division, which has four agents in addition to Karl, and they have already handled more cases this year in the unincorporated areas of the county than for all of 2001," Garber said.

"The response from the general public has been wonderful in supplying tips, which many have led to several drug-related arrests. The Narcotics Division has to be commended for the job they have done in our county."

When complaints of drug activities were reported in the Hancock High School, Garber made arrangements in January with



Sheriff Steve Garber

Superintendent of Education Mike Ladner and school officials to place an undercover narcotics agent from a Louisiana city as a student in the school system.

In March, the arrest of one student resulted from the undertaking. Garber said, "We received valuable information from the undercover agent on drug activities outside the school system which has led to several arrests."

During the entire school year, some 14 students from Hancock High were removed from the school due to drug-related activities, the sheriff said.

This number is not included in the 78 drug cases handled outside the schools thus far this year.

Karl is also impressed with the support the Narcotics Division has been receiving from the general public.

He said, "I wish to personally thank the people for their support and am looking forward for it to continue. There is no way drugs can be completely eliminated from a community."

"The Narcotics Division will do its best to curb drug use in the county. We want to make it miserable for drug dealers and users and let them know we are looking over their shoulders."

Karl did say there are times when drug activities are reported, and agents are not able to get enough evidence to secure a warrant. He stated, "Any and all types of information on possible drug activities are greatly appreciated."

During the January 1 to June 24 period of 2002, the Narcotics Division has dismantled five methamphetamine labs within the county.

Crystal meth possession was also leading the pack in the drug-related arrests, according

to Karl.

Karl said, "The cooperation of the patrolling deputies has been tremendous to the Narcotics Division. Their work has led to probably half of the drug-related arrests we have made this year."

Garber reported the Narcotics Division this year has also seized four vehicles in addition to a 28-foot pleasure boat.

Residents are urged to report any information about possible drug activities within the county to the Narcotics Division at 467-1496, or the Sheriff's Office at 467-5101.

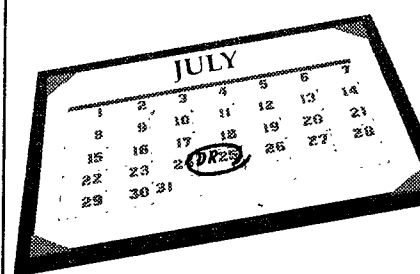
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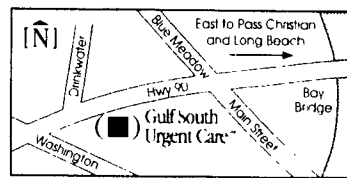
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Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher
Sheriff's highway safety officer Lt. Jimmy Esposito, left, shows Garber the 27 pounds of marijuana he seized during a recent arrest.

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